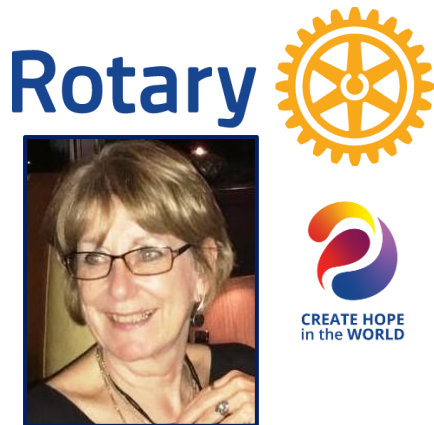




www.rotaryclubsa.org

President Arlene's Letter



June is Rotary Fellowship Month

Where to start?

This has been such an incredible year and only this month has seen such fellowship shown by all our members for each other and for the many we assist.

We have had such extreme weather conditions that have left our people in need of food, clothing, medical aid and much, much more. You will see in the following pages the devastation left after a tornado hit Tongaat and the surrounding villages, north of Durban. We were able to call on Rotarians both local and worldwide to come to our aid and they did. That is fellowship.

The Rotary year is ending and although I have asked many times for an incoming President to be elected, I am afraid that no suggestions have come forward. So, I am afraid, my friends you are stuck with me for the 24/25 Rotary year although it will definitely be my last one 😊 I am so very lucky to have a fantastic band of brothers (so to speak) to work with me in our quest to empower our local communities.

Thank you all so very much.

As I have said previously you will be able to see in the coming pages just some of the projects we are committed to and the joy it brings us all, to be able to work with such loving people.

Yours in Rotary,

Arlene Arnold

Club President 2023-2024
Rotary E-Club of South Africa One
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***Eds Note: Oh my word !!! Only when one has to write a newsletter, does one realise how much this Rotary Club – with the help from all its donors, friends, supporters & families – actually achieves in a single month. Heavy work for the Ed I'll tell you ;-D ;-D ***



The SA Weather Services (SAWS) knew it was coming (left)....and this is the path it took on the 3rd June (right)



KwaZulu-Natal is - yet again – affected by a devastating weather system.....

On Monday 3rd June, a very isolated area of KZN was affected by a “freak” tornado. Who ever thought of a tornado in South Africa...let alone in the green oasis that is KZN? However, this phenomenon has occurred previously – in 2011 near Ficksburg in the Free State as well as in November 2019 in New Hanover & Greytown, near Pietermaritzburg in KZN (www.wikipedia.com). The weather system that hit north of Durban (most severely impacted was the Tongaat and surrounding area) on Monday 3rd June, was classified as a “wedge” tornado forming in a “supercell” thunderstorm (...this info courtesy of www.dailymaverick.co.za....so hoping it is correct !?). This supercell system affected isolated parts of the Eastern Cape and the Free State, but it was the tornado that impacted KZN.

The pictures and video’s that circulated on Tuesday 4th June were shocking to us all. Although the path of the tornado was very narrow and of a relatively short duration (a few hours), in KZN, it tracked through an area of Tongaat that is densely populated, damaging more than 7,000 homes and leaving approx. 1,200 people from the affected communities destitute and in need of humanitarian aid. The damage to roads, infrastructure and schools was prolific – especially Seatides Combined school which caters for 950 pupils from Grade O through to Matric.

According to the SA Weather Service, the tornado started close to Maphumulo, northwest of Tongaat at approx. 15h41 and reached a point on our coast at La Mercy – where Seatides Combined School is located – at 16h25. In less than 45 minutes it wreaked havoc along its path....and literally destroyed Seatides School.

The response from various compassionate organisations and individuals, as well as Disaster Relief from the KZN local government, was immediate and truly extensive – showing the power of social media when used towards a positive end. And thanks to DGE Raj Ramchunder’s pro-active response to the urgency of the situation, a District Application to RI for Disaster Relief was approved, securing \$ 25,000.- (approx. value at the time of the event was +- R 466,000.-). Our District Governor appointed the RC of Umhlanga as the co-ordinating club for the Rotary disaster relief programme in

KZN. This speedy response of Rotary in our District to the situation, has allowed for the right help being aimed where it is needed most urgently – with logistical organization and order – ensuring those most in need actually get help almost immediately, instead of waiting for the bureaucratic delays that so often occur in disaster scenarios.

Our dear friends of the RC of Westbourne, UK, and their President, David Tilling, responded immediately to our Districts call for donations towards the District 9370 Disaster Fund, donating a sizeable amount – GBP 300 (equivalent to +- R 6,900.-) - to the fund. They requested of DG Jacques Venter, that it be earmarked for Seatides School, its pupils, teachers and their principal. The school was designated unfit for occupation due to the extensive damages sustained and as a result will, in all probability, need to be re-built almost from the foundations upwards. President Arlene and her trusty Projects Director Logie will now sit with our Board and outline a plan for how our Club will best be able to additionally assist the learners of the school.

The plan to be a part of resurrecting the phoenix from the ashes, will be a “medium to long-term” project for the E-Club, as we will only be able to ascertain their needs once they have secured assistance with the rebuilding of the school premises – hopefully this will occur sooner, rather than later.

We will keep our members and friends of Rotary updated with any news of how we are able to help the school as we go along....



Some images of the incredible damage to Seatides Combined School.

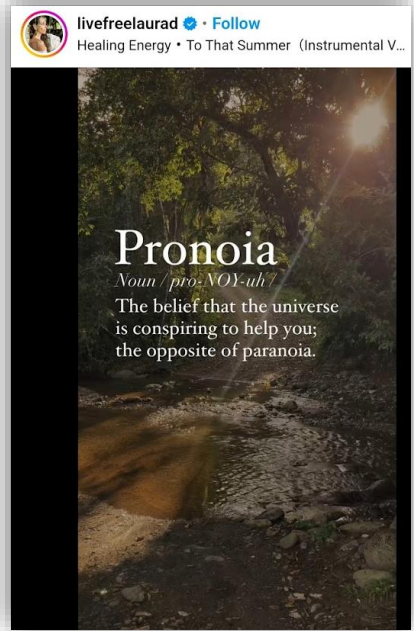
All Images News Videos Sh

On the morning of June 3, 2024, there were ostensibly six planets lined up like ducklings: **Jupiter, Mercury, Uranus, Mars, Neptune, and Saturn**, in that order. In reality, only Saturn and Mars were visible to most observers. 2 days ago

The effect of the Moon on the Earth's tides is an accepted phenomenon.....so it is most likely that an event such as occurred with the 6 planets on June 3rd, also had consequences on the Earth's atmosphere & hence it's weather patterns.



In many countries around the world, June was Fathers Day month.....so happy Fathers Day to all our Fathers amongst the Rotarians and Friends of Rotary that are reading our newsletter.



We of the E-Club, believe that the universe is helping all of us – to overcome disadvantages, to help one another in a loving and thoughtlessly compassionate way - without expectation of the EGO's need for thanks or self aggrandizement.

In this self-same spirit, Rotarians Iris and Nareshini spent 4 days in the deep rural areas of KZN, training 80 ECD practitioners in Parenting and Coping Skills.

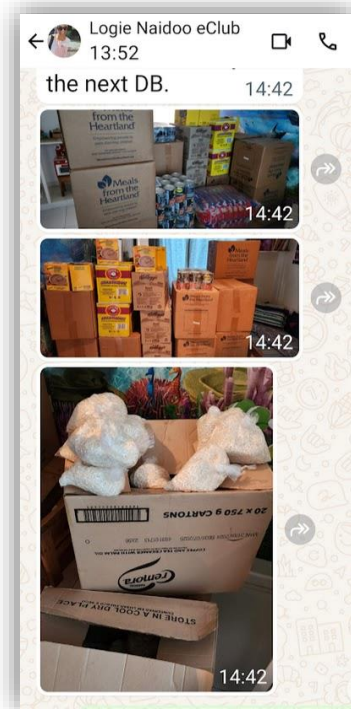
Nareshini is grateful for the dedicated and boundless support of Casa Dillon Education towards ELET's initiatives.....and both are grateful for the assistance of the E-Club in all their endeavours. Viva team-work 😊



Projects Director Logie dropped off a ton of foodstuffs – a variety of tinned goods, mageu, coffee creamer, including Meals from the Heartland hampers – for Rotarian Iris’ ECD centres in the rural area’s south and inland of Durban.

This generous donation of much-needed, fortifying food products, was donated by Expats Johannesburg – friends of Logie and her husband Terry.

Thank you to all those expats all over the world, who still hold the health of our children in their hearts.....



Further news on our very successful and ongoing Afriweave Initiative.....

For those of us who are new to the Drumbeat, the Afriweave Initiative started 5 years ago when past-member Monique Labat introduced Logie to Caroll Lazarus, who is responsible for designing and manufacturing the Afriweave kits.

Caroll wanted to empower people with weaving skills and teach them techniques to enable them to have a hobby, to generate an income and to help children with coordination skills. Caroll personally sponsored 100 kits to the initial organisations in order to get the project started. The RC of Scottburgh and Dr Indran and Renuka Naidoo are ongoing sponsors of this initiative.

We are also very fortunate to receive the massive donation of all our t-shirt yarn for this project from Dyefin.

The following pictures show the success of the Afriweave Initiative in open space near Westridge Tennis Stadium in Durban, where 5 members of The House of Dorcas NPC, were busy getting creative with their kits. This is the second session with this group and their enjoyment in learning a useful skill encourages us to continue doing what we do in partnership with our Friend of Rotary Caroll.



SPEAKERS THIS MONTH.....

At our first June Club meeting on the 4th, Rotarian Robert Senkubuge – as a member of the Mental Health Initiatives Rotary Action Group – shared his insights on how Rotarians are looking after their own, and their fellow members', mental wellbeing.

As Rotarians, going about our Rotary work, we oftentimes forget to “fill up the jug” – expending so much love and effort in supporting those in need, that our own “jug” becomes empty - with the result that many of us end up

June is Rotary Fellowships Month

Rotary Fellowships Month this June is a great time to reflect on your hobbies, interests, or profession and connect with a fellowship. Or consider forming your own! Rotary Fellowships are international, independently organized groups of people who have a common interest or profession. They host activities and networking events, and they offer professional development opportunities virtually and around the world. With more than 100 officially recognized fellowships, you have so many ways to connect and build community with new friends throughout the Rotary world. View the full list of Rotary Fellowships to find one that fits your interests, or write to rotaryfellowships@rotary.org if you have an idea for a new fellowship.

suffering from what is called “donor fatigue”.

This mental health condition, if not addressed timeously, contributes to multiple physical ailments

- the underlying physiological cause being adrenal fatigue – which impacts on our immune and other systems.

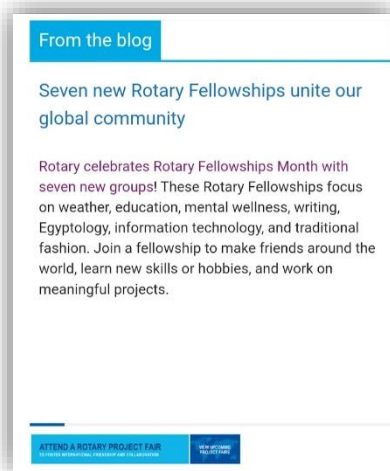
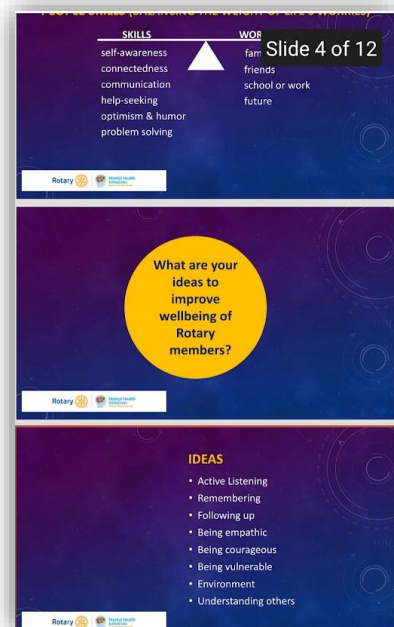


Through an easy to read and understand PPP, Robert shared advice and ideas on how we can best look after our own mental health...and be conscious of how the stress of giving may be impacting on the health of our fellow Rotarians.

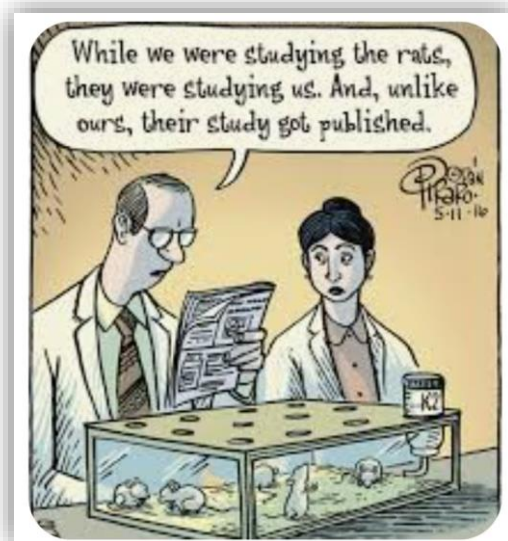
Often, just a simple phone-call or a funny GIF via WhatsApp, is sufficient to show another member that you do indeed care about them.....a lot 😊

Have a look at the screenshots of a few of the useful slides Robert shared with us.

Thank you for your compassion and care Robert.....



***Pssst!!! Robert...will you be sharing the results of the post-presentation survey you did on us all? The lab-rats of the E-Club want to know if we passed muster :-D ;-D ***





And do take the yoga advice....sweating is definitely better for you 😂

Another speaker that we had this month on the 18th June, was Predeshnie Ponnar, a Judicial Officer of the Bela-Bela Magistrates Court in Limpopo.

She gave us clarity and details on the updated Domestic Violence Act and some of the experiences and knowledge she has gained as a legal representative in this sphere of the law in South Africa. In our thank you letter, we wrote that “it is more common for speakers.....from the “abuse” side of the Gender Based Violence story, to talk out or present at Rotary meetings”. Now understanding “the legal process which...survivors have to undergo to either report or apply to receive.....Protection Orders...”, our members can “understand the implications from both sides now”.

At this meeting we had the pleasure of Mara Glennie also attending. If you all recall, earlier this year Mara presented to our Club on her organization – the TEARS Foundation – an organization which looks out for those that are affected by GBV.

After Predeshnie’s eye-opening (and sometimes shocking in the details) presentation, we were privileged to play a part in connecting Mara and Predeshnie.

Their two minds and hearts combined, will be far more helpful to those impacted by GBV than either working alone.

The Magic of Rotary at work....and by Making Connections....we’re Creating Hope....for GBV survivors and their families



Thank you for your valuable time and willingness to keep us informed Predeshnie.....



Now for some Club Admin.....do I hear the collective groan.....nope ?!?!?

It's (as we say in Afrikaans...) "tjoepestil" (pronounced: tshoopstill ;-D).



But that could be because we're an online club....and the Ed can't hear you through the internet.....hehehe 😊

But on a serious note.....

- ✓ A huge vote of thanks to incoming Treasurer Brigitte and outgoing money-man Tony (and of course Pres Arlene) for emailing all current members to find out whether they will be remaining as members in this new magical Rotary year.
 - There was a slight increase in our annual subs – from R 2,300.- to now R 2,400.-.
 - Thanks to Tony, Brigitte, Pres Arlene and the Board, for deciding on this minimal increase in our subs and for taking into account that ALL Rotarians all over the world, are being affected by rising costs.
 - Also thank you to all our members that paid their subs now at the start of the new Rotary year. It's so important for our members to "pay upfront", as our Club has to pay our dues to RI **before** the new Rotary year begins and with your help in this regard, our Club Treasurer doesn't have to sweat about the finances !!!
 - Once Susie has updated the RI site and Clubrunner with our current membership details, we'll let all our members know what our final membership total is for this new year.

- ✓ We have to unfortunately say goodbye to three of our E-Club stalwarts.
 - Leslie Maulin – who, due to ill-health, will sadly be resigning from our Club after so many years of loyal support. Our thoughts and hopes for less discomfort as time goes by Leslie.....but we know you will find joy in listening to all the stories and books that you love.
 - Cathy Dipnall – our steadfast journalist from whom I have taken over as your trusty Ed (seriously big shoes to fill here, Cathy....) - who, also due to ill-health, will be taking an extended break from Rotary. All our members wish you a speedy recovery and hope that, when the time arrives, you will join our ranks once again.
 - Pat Draper – who, as he pointed out to Pres Arlene, is 87 years old now and needs some time to himself. Pat has been instrumental in our acquiring all our Global Grants and has traipsed around our province (and Kenya just recently) implementing and overseeing our various water projects (and many others over the last 40-odd years as a Rotarian). This will be a great blow for our RC and the communities that he has diligently served all this time.....but we wish you a peaceful, happy and healthy (Rotary) retirement Pat.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
TO
HUMANITY

An update on our incoming Long Term YEP student from Italy – Enrico Bormolini.....



Enrico and his family made the 600 km trip from their home town near Lake Garda to Rome for their 12h00 visa application appointment at the SA Consulate last Friday.....only to frantically phone District Youth Chair Mike Lindsay at 11h00 to let us know that 2 of the documents (the letter from Westville Boys High confirming his education for the year with them and the letter from the Host Parents here in Durban) were not accepted by the Consulate !!!

Well that just caused both Mikes and my blood pressure to shoot through the roof, as we were running around making urgent phone-calls to the Host Mom *etc. etc.* in order to try and get the necessary documents. On top of this, our schools are all closed for the July school holidays, so to amend the letter from Westville Boys was posing a real *“problemo”* as they say in Italian.

It has become evident that the Dept of Home Affairs of the SA government has changed their visa application requirements for study purposes (all exchanges....even Rotary Youth Exchanges....).

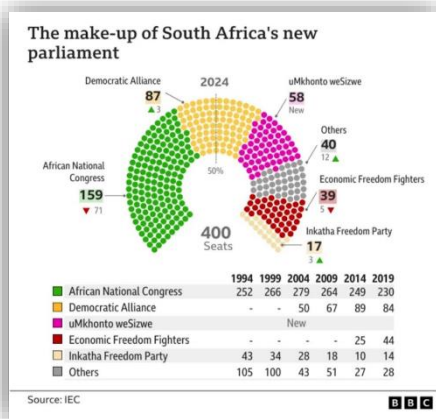
The positive spin on this whole debacle is that at least now our District Youth Exchange knows that the “goal-post” has been moved....and we need to make the changes to our YEP application documents to advise future incoming Long Term YEP students of these pitfalls.

This doesn’t much help Enrico’s poor parents though, as now they have to make another appointment with the consulate and make a second, very expensive trip to Rome.

So we are asking all our members and friends all over the world, to put out positive intentions that this time, all the documents are correct and that Enrico will be able to visit our beautiful country...and to share in the spirit that is Rotary.....



Why was Cinderella so bad at soccer?
She kept running away from the ball...



Although we know that as Rotarians, we are non-political, it might interest our members and friends that 2024 is the year in which the most countries in the world are having elections.

Time magazine is calling it the **ULTIMATE ELECTION YEAR**, as 64 countries will be/have already been to the polls in 2024 – a combined population of approx. 49% of the worlds population.

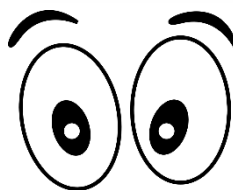
All South Africans went to the polls on the 29th of May....but we are still awaiting news on how our GNU (government of national unity) will get things done.

We're never too old to learn new tricks.....and this goes for Social Media and all it entails as well.

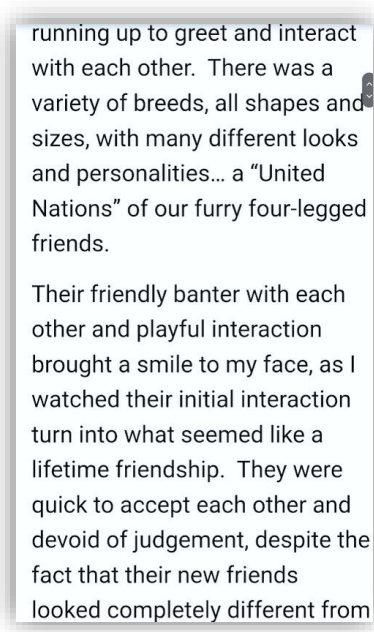
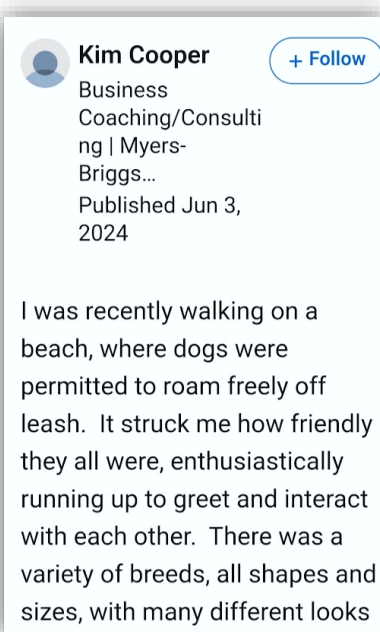
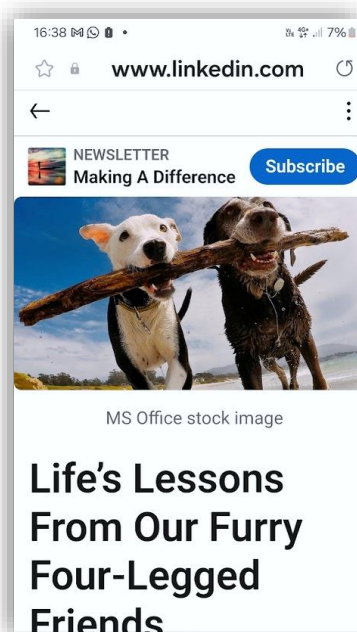
There is no doubt that SM is useful – to educate, to advertise, to inform – but the tech world is getting dangerous out there.

So just some advice to all of us, that when posting or re-posting links, videos or even just photo's, be mindful of a few important things.

See this easy-to-follow advice found on Pinterest...



Our member, Rotarian Kim Woodall, always writes the most inspiring and beautiful stories. Read her latest one about “Life’s Lessons From Our Furry Four-Legged Friends”.



them. They seemed to only look forward to enjoying each others' company.

It struck me at the time how much we as humans could learn from these wonderful animals, how the world could be so different if we were all more open and accepting of the diversity that makes our world so abundantly rich. If we could all be more accepting of different cultures, different

looks, different ethnicities and different beliefs, there would be more peace and prosperity in the world.

Imagine how different the beach experience would have been, if every dog looked the same? Imagine how dull life would be if every animal, bird, flower and tree looked the same?

The abundance of diversity in our world contributes to the richness of life.

The world is becoming increasingly connected through the internet, travel and global business. We need to embrace diversity... diversity of others, diversity of thought, diversity of cultures and traditions. Yet, so often, there is a reluctance to embrace this diversity.

If you have a colleague who is from a different culture, different community or different country, take the time to get to know them. Listen to their ideas and learn from their life experiences. Our communities

and businesses can be enhanced by these many different facets.

Just like our furry four-legged friends on the beach, let's make a difference by accepting each other without judgement, even though we may appear completely different from each other. Let's embrace diversity, let's embrace different perspectives and learn from each other. You may be surprised as to what you will discover, and your life will be richer for it.

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP IN JULY 2024

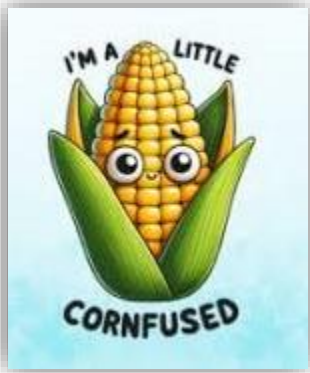


Suresh Setty	20 th July
Rasigan Naidoo	21 st July



FYI everyone....Rotarian Charmaine has agreed to be our Birthday Wish-Bringer as of 1st July. On behalf of all members of our Club, thank you for this help going forward Charmaine 😊

And last but not least.....how could we not end our newsletter without our..... **corny jokes.....**



- What did the triangle say to the circle? You're pointless.
- I love being married. It's so great to find the person you are going to annoy for the rest of your life.
- What goes up and down but doesn't move? Stairs.
- What's a ballerina's favourite number? Two - two.
- What does a house wear? Address....

So long everyone.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the end of July.

