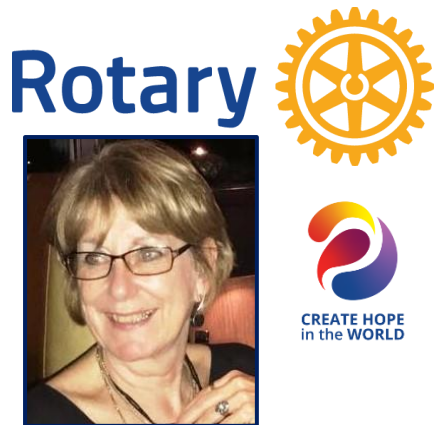




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President Arlene's Letter



YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Dear Friends,

8th May 2024

Usually, I would be saying something in this letter about the theme of the month, in this case Youth Service Month but as you are no doubt all aware some of our members have been working extremely hard on many projects, some of which you will learn about in the following pages.

This month I would like to share with you all an extract from a letter of thanks I received from one of our members (Iris) who worked on the Peace Garden. Iris and the team (headed by Logie) worked extremely hard to create the Peace Garden. Thank you Team, you brought forth a lot of joy from a truly awful situation.

I really think that this shows the true spirit and love for our fellow man which makes a good Rotarian. Judge for yourselves.

Kind regards
Arlene Arnold
Club President 2023-2024
Rotary E-Club of South Africa One
District 9370

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Dear Pres Arlene

THANK YOU: SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS AND SUPPORT IN CREATING A PEACE GARDEN

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Rotary E Club SA One for the partnership in creating a peace garden at Umkomaas Drift Primary School. Our strong partnership which began as just an idea to create awareness on Water for Peace resulted in a very powerful statement and footprint that we have jointly left at Umkomaas Drift Primary School and in the community of V Section in Umkomaas.



Rotarians Iris Canham, Logie Naidoo & Tony Holness with the Drift Reading Programme volunteers readers from Renishaw Hills Estate, near Umkomaas.

When the news broke of Lusanda's untimely death, I contacted family members and immediately Logie. She offered deep, comforting words which was shortly followed by a call from you, President Arlene, to find out how I was feeling. Words cannot express my sincere

gratitude for the emotional support followed by the quick action to create something memorable that would be a reminder that Lusanda Yolanda Nkomo will never be forgotten.

The garden is a labor of love. Creating it was a time of bonding, meeting new friends, using what we had to create something beautiful and lobbying additional support, but most of all a time of unity, love, shared hopes and joy. The garden was handed over to the school on 3 May coinciding with Lusanda's memorial. We saw the families release some pain, children hopeful and proud of the new image of their school, teachers express gratitude and unite in a common cause and community members appreciate the beauty of a peace garden. It was the first time today that I had an opportunity to take children through the labyrinth and explain to them its purpose and how to walk the path.

As we walked towards the garden, some onlookers from outside the school gate were intrigued. At the starting point the children spoke about the issues in their lives they hoped to get relief from. We walked the path in silence with some onlookers greeting from the road and applauding the work well done. "Shoosh", responded Awande, "we are meditating!" When we reached the center, I explained that the center was a place of gratitude to reflect on the things we are grateful for. The children began to speak about Lusanda and how grateful they are, that she was someone they were able to call a friend. Each child spoke about her kind hearted nature and how she always made others feel. "She always told me how beautiful I am" said Siyamthanda. "Me too ma'am. Lusanda always said I must never forget that I am beautiful" said Awande. "Lusanda was friends with my cousin ma'am and she always said 'You are beautiful and special'." said Bayanda. "She was very, very kind to everyone. This is what I am thankful for, that I knew Lusanda". "I think Lusanda is like an angel that will help us spell better in our spelling Bee because you came to teach us to spell and now we have this garden," said Siya.

We proceeded out of the center to the memory bench. They sat on the memory bench, taking deep breaths. "How do you feel?" "So much better", responded Awande. "It is nice that we have this peace garden because it will help us with our feelings. Do you think we can call your friends to make us peace gardens in our homes, Miss Iris?"

I asked the children if Lusanda would have loved the space and they nodded profusely. "She was so kind and this garden is made up of kindness".

We can never measure the impact this garden will have on the children and educators today and in the future. There is already a different energy at the school, one that is not easy to explain. You would need to feel the before and after. One thing we know for sure is that this space has been created to heal. I cannot thank you enough for making this possible.

May the club grow from strength to strength!

Warmest regards

Iris Canham
Head: Casa Dillon Education



Some pictures of the Umkomaas Drift Peace Garden – from start to finish.

ENJOY 😊

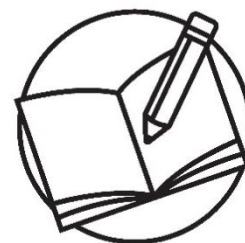
The making of a Peace Garden...
START HERE.....



The Peace Garden and the Reading Programme at Umkomaas Drift Primary School attempts to address two of Rotary's Area's of Focus as follows.....



**PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION**



**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**

A pure white benevolent angel rises.....with her pet peace-dove at her feet.....



She brings a sense of peace....protecting all the little children entering through these gates.....



Surrounded by waterwise & indigenous colour.....



From a bunch of rocks.....

Lusanda's Memorial Service was attended by E-Club Rotarians Logie Naidoo, Iris Canham, Susie vd Merwe & Friends of Rotary – Selvie Gounden, Caroll Lazarus & Dirk Lampbrecht.



The Principal, Staff and Learners of Umkomaas Drift Primary School would like to invite you to the memorial service of the late Lusanda Yolanda Nkomo

Date: 03/05/2024

Time: 11h30

Venue: Umkomaas Drift Primary

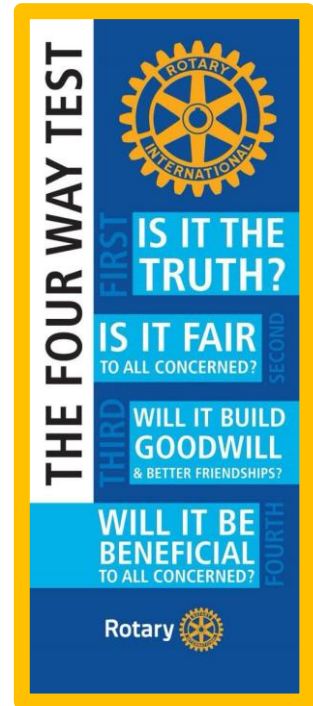
Your presence will be highly appreciated.



In our E-Club we always add one more line to the FOUR WAY TEST and this is: "Will it be sustainable" (Oh, and I forgot: "Will it be fun" ;-D)

For obvious reasons the Reading Programme run by Rotarian Iris Canham of Casa Dillon Education at this school, with the help of our Clubs compassionate friends and donors, will be an ongoing project, as there will forever be a need to teach our children the love and excitement of reading.

It can only be "sustainable" if we continue to receive support from our friends, as it is simply impossible for the school itself to continue with the programme on their own.



A big thanks from all of us to Rotarian Tony Holness and his bunch of volunteers from Renishaw Hills Estate....as without them Iris would really struggle to continue to create her magic in these young ones lives.....



thank you!



And now, just to lighten up the mood, a joke from President Arlene (certainly not from Dave or Terry or Quintus!!!)



Here is some news from our ongoing support in various ways at KwaVulindlebe School for the Deaf & Autism in Havenside, Chatsworth.



On the 17th May our Projects Director Logie Naidoo and Rotarian Vanessa Rana had an exciting day at the school with the handover of 20 packs of SUBZ pads.

This donation formed part of our Project Dignity which is made possible by means of sponsorship received from the Rotary Club of Liverpool Exchange.

At the handover, all the young ladies are given a full education on what it means to become a woman, as well as how to take care of the pads.

Contained in each drawstring bag is the following:

- 2 pairs of panties
- 6 washable sanitary towels/pads
- 6 sealable bags for used pads.

Logie also bolstered each of the packs with:

- a bar of soap
- a face-cloth
- talcum powder
- a roll-on deodorant.



The panties are 100% breathable cotton, with non-woven rubber-based elastic which is long-wearing and will not stretch out of shape over time. The pads themselves are very absorbent – holding 25-30mls of discharge & because they are washable cotton fabric, they are re-usable for anything

between 3 -5 years. There are no gels or absorbent chemicals and so the SUBZ pads are 100% biodegradable – a totally “green” product that, unlike disposable sanitary towels, will not clog landfills and harm the environment.

👁️👁️ Have a look at some of the photo's Logie sent in for the Drumbeat this month....



Here are the happy group of young ladies that received their SUBZ pad packs. To the far left we have Projects Director Logie Naidoo and Principal Nomathemba Daphne Ndlovu and on the right we have Grace Chinyang and Rotarian Vanessa Rana.

← Logie Naidoo eClub 16:40



Hello Susie
Thought I share these pics from our Sanitary packs handover at Kwa Vulindlebe.

The garden is taking shape, and we were so happy to see the vegetables growing. Nomathemba is such a passionate lady who never gives up. The one wall was painted with a teacher from the school and a student studying Arts.

16:21

Message



The idea for this inspiring mural at the school was initiated & designed by Deaf Teacher Aid - Thobile Khawula. Thobile was assisted by Deaf Teacher Trainee at UKZN- Edgewood Campus – Khadeejah and unemployed graduate – Hlengiwe.



Rotarian Charles Khumalo reminded us that May was also National Water Safety month.



Siyasindisa Academy (Rotarian Charles) and SaveSoil (Rotarian Vanessa) got together for a mega clean-up in the Kenville and Sea Cow Lake community.



Even though the Rotary E-Club of SA One was not involved here, we support anything that our Rotarians are involved in that concerns teaching our children to honour and respect our environment.

Our incoming Treasurer, Rotarian Brigitte Turner, has also been rather busy up-country.

With the support of the Rotary Club of Hillcrest, the Hope of Africa sewing project has produced beautiful pieces of craftwork and equipped women with lifelong skills that economically empower them.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thanks for sharing your good work with our Members and Friends Brigitte & Charles.

Our Rotary Club is happy to announce that we have both an outgoing & an incoming Long-term Youth Exchange student this year.

Meet our outgoing LT RYE student from Glenwood, Durban, South Africa – Joshua Marlin.

Here he is with his Mom & brother and Mike Lindsay of the D9370 Youth Exchange Committee on the day he left our shores.



Josh left for Italy in January this year and has been having such an adventure eating pizza & learning the language, that he hardly ever has time to call his Mom :-D ;-D



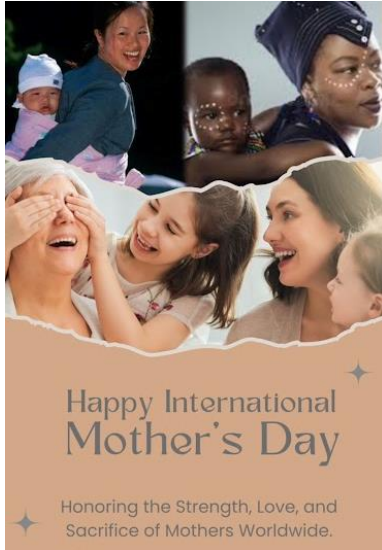
Our incoming LT RYE student will be Enrico Bormolini from Italy.

Enrico will probably be arriving in Durban sometime in July or August. We are currently in the process of finding a school here in Durban for him to attend for the year, so as soon as that is all arranged, District will start the ball rolling for his visa to South Africa & all his travel arrangements.

It just so happens that Josh is actually staying with Enrico and his family in their hometown of Padenghe sul Garda for a whole month, so that is super-exciting for both young men to meet one another.

As soon as we have more details (and pictures...), we'll post them on the E-Club whatsapp group and you'll read more about it in our June/July Drumbeat.

And now for our final bit of news for this May edition of the



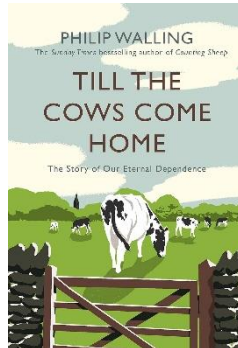
On the 12th of May, it was to all mothers all over the world, that we said thank you for everything you do for us.

Without you.....where would we all be??

(Thanks to Rotarian Charles for the lovely picture)

Wow!!! May has certainly been a very busy month.

In fact a lot more happened....but if we put it all in here, you'd be reading 'til the cows come home 😂



So last but not least, let's remember to wish.....oh wait!!!.....None of us are having a birthday in June.....

.....so there are no.....

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP IN JUNE 2024



Let's end with our customary bit of humour....for after all "LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE"....

Some corny jokes



1. What do kids play when their mom is using the phone? Bored games.
2. What do you call an ant who fights crime? A vigilANTE!
3. Why are snails slow? Because they're carrying a house on their back.
4. What's the smartest insect? A spelling bee! (THIS ONES FOR YOU IRIS ;-D :-D)

5. What does a storm cloud wear under his raincoat? Thunderwear.

6. What is fast, loud and crunchy? A rocket chip.

7. How does the [ocean](#) say hi? It waves!



8. What do you call a couple of chimpanzees sharing an Amazon account? PRIME-mates.

9. Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert? Because she was stuffed.

10. Why did the soccer player take so long to eat dinner? Because he thought he couldn't use his hands.

11. Name the kind of tree you can hold in your hand? A palm tree!

12. What do [birds](#) give out on [Halloween](#)? Tweets.

So long everyone. Looking forward to seeing you all next month.

