



March 2008

LITERACY MONTH – AGAIN?

District 9320 celebrated Literacy Month in July last year and the above heading indicates we are doing so again. The problem is that last year's DGE slipped up on his research when planning. When compiling the directory, he used the DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S TRAINING MANUAL. The editor of this had unfortunately not taken into account the RI decision to move Literacy Month from July to March, which was recorded in some other documentation. However, as Literacy is one RI President Wilf's emphases and as it is so important for this country, there is no harm in having another month for Literacy!

For this month, if you check your directories, I did request that you try something new in your club. This could very easily be a new literacy project so you can kill two birds with one stone if you have not planned something else already!

CONCENTRATED LANGUAGE ENCOUNTER

This is the name given to the literacy programme for beginners endorsed by Rotary and is the system that was used to make a phenomenal difference to the literacy rates in Thailand.

Some schools in the Western Cape (District 9350) tried the system and at the last report they were doing quite well. The Free State Department of Education in our district showed interest a year or so ago in the system. I have no confirmation it has been accepted. PDG Bev Radue arranged for two education officials from the Eastern Cape to attend training in Thailand on CLE and the system was introduced as a pilot programme in a few schools in Port Elizabeth. Unfortunately this pilot flew off into the unknown and has not been seen or heard of since.

However, a Foundation 3-H Grant that introduced the CLE method to Brazil in 2001 continues to boost literacy rates among low-income families throughout the country. More than 1,900 teachers and other educational experts have learned the method that has taught more than 72,600 beneficiaries how to read and write.

Through CLE, students learn from group texts and activities rather than rote memorization and repetition. With low costs and a highly interactive aspect that is popular with students, CLE has proven effective in many developing countries.

Dozens of local Rotary clubs are now promoting

and supporting the CLE methodology in Brazil. The active involvement of local Rotarians has also led to numerous non-grant projects to help schools with materials, meals, and health care.

Hopefully the education officials in this country will realise that something has to be done and CLE may be the solution for a turn around in the effectiveness of our education system. Hopefully our Rotarians will be able to share their skills to make a difference in the schools, as the Brazilian Rotarians do, and that spin-off developments will improve many aspects of school life for the poor.

A DISTRICT LITERACY PROJECT



The Rotary Club of Jeffreys Bay and the Interact Club of Nico Malan High School changed the membership of this township library from about 100 members to close to 2000. Children from the school across the road cannot get there quickly enough after school. Books were collected by Nelson, a teddy bear sent overseas to Interact Clubs to encourage them to donate books. The furnishings and other equipment were from the Rotary Club of J. Bay.



President Trudy Ruytenbeek and DG Lionel Heath with eight new members inducted on the occasion of the DG's visit to Ficksburg Imperani. On the same night one Paul Harris recognition and two Sapphire recognitions (one of which was a fifth sapphire) were presented. (See Welcoming Wheel)

MEMBERSHIP WELCOMING WHEEL

The Rotary Club of Ficksburg Imperani re-introduced a method of finding new members that could be used in smaller towns. They invited all newcomers to the town in the past year or so to a welcoming function to allow them to meet each other and the Rotarians who organised the function. The get together was so successful that nine new members joined the club (eight are seen above).

Remember that newcomers to a town are often lonely and lost and are looking for a family.

Why not get them to join the Family of Rotary?

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

At club meetings I have mentioned the dreams or goals of The Rotary Foundation. Here is some more news.

POLIO ELIMINATION IS REALISTIC

Google has come on board and is challenging Rotary to collect \$3.5 million which will be added to the \$100 million challenge from Bill Gates. A Rotarian from India has already donated \$2 million.



PEACE IS POSSIBLE

The University of the Western Cape has applied for its Desmond Tutu Peace Centre to become one of the International Rotary Peace Centres.



LINKING WITH OUR LOST ASSETS

According to a 2006 survey, only 3% of 105,000 alumni of Foundation programme are Rotarians. Yet two-thirds of alumni and over 80% of current programme participants say they are interested in joining a Rotary club. Imagine what impact these talented people could have on Rotary and the world if all were invited to join.

EREY Rotary has come a long way since the Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) effort began in 2004. Contributions to the Annual Programmes Fund have nearly doubled – from \$55.8 million in 2002-03 to a record \$102.5 million in 2006-07.

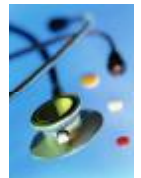


ROMEX - TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

This is the heading of an article on The Rotary Medical Exchange (ROMEX) written by Henk Kayser in *The Coelacanth*, the club newsletter of the Rotary Club of Arcadia in East London.. Henk initiated this club project in 1998 and has run it ever since. Henk is finding it more difficult to manage ROMEX alone and needs more assistance and he is preparing to be able to hand it over eventually.

Henk feels the success of this project is based on:

1. A worldwide **NETWORK** of contacts inside and outside Rotary which has been developed and **MAINTAINED**.
2. Meticulous **FEED-BACK** to donors about their donations. Feedback from recipients, however, is not very good.
3. **EFFICIENCY** in dealing with overseas imports including finding stranded and missing containers.
4. The **GUARANTEE** Rotary provides that the goods are placed correctly.



The club board members realise a medical person on a future ROMEX committee is essential but also that the services of both an efficient secretary and treasurer are needed. Efficiency is also required to run logistics, warehousing, technical assistance, workparties and transport. The transport is excellently handled by Rot. Raj Naidoo of the Rotary Club of Gately at present and Arcadia Rotarians man most of the workparties.

As our district consignment of 5600 wheelchairs is the largest ever organised by The Foundation, a Foundation official was sent to ROMEX and he insists that ROMEX control the wheelchair project. ROMEX must continue because its record and reputation are so good.



The Arcadia club members need to decide what the future of the project is and whether it can continue as a club project. It may become a district or area project and dedicated Rotarians from other clubs, particularly in East London and particularly doctors, may have to step forward to help – even if it is on a roster basis. For the time being Henk will be there to chair a committee of workers to run ROMEX.

PLEASE CHECK THIS MONTH'S ROTARY INFORMATION FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE WHEELCHAIRS COMING TO THE DISTRICT.

CLUBS ARE INVITED TO CONTACT HENK FOR AN INVENTORY OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE AT ROMEX. NOT EVERYTHING IS PURELY MEDICAL – THERE ARE OFTEN BEDS SUITABLE FOR HAVENS FOR CHILDREN OR FOR OLD AGE HOMES. RECIPIENT CLUBS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE A DONATION FOR GOODS RECEIVED FROM ROMEX.

Literacy and Public Relations in Cape Town. Has your town a sign like this one?



DO WE WANT ROTARY AWARDS?

Are Rotarians in district 9320 very modest and not interested in recognition, are they afraid of being disappointed or are they a bit lazy to apply for Rotary awards that recognise their club or any of its members?

Maureen and I saw brilliant projects where clubs co-operated with other organisations to make an enormous difference in the lives of fellow human beings. I appealed last month for clubs to apply for a Co-operative Projects Award and nothing has appeared to date and I need the applications by 15 March. If you are not able to get it to me on time, please let me know by this date that you are applying.

There are many awards available to club members and is it fair to all concerned if other clubs are making them to recipients that are probably not as worthy as yours are.

Please look at:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/GeneralInformation/Awards> and check on the long list of awards that can be made by the club itself to its members. Others can be nominated and nominations sent to me (at least one month before the closing date at RI if a district closing date is not given.)

If you struggle to get the above page, just go to www.rotary.org and type "Awards" into the space at the top of the page and then choose a general list of awards.

APPLICATION AND NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THIS WEB PAGE.

"Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow men." Mahatma Gandhi

IN MEMORIAM

Past President (twice) Lt. Col. Alex Krohn of the Rotary Club of Bloemfontein passed away at the end of January. He played an important role in the SA Air Force and later in the business life of Bloemfontein. He had been a provincial rugby and squash player in his youth. The district shares the sadness of his family and his Rotary Club at his passing.

District 9320 also sympathizes with PDG Fred Roberts and Melanie on the passing of Fred's sister in February.

We also share the extreme sadness of two Rotary couples whose expected first grandchildren died shortly before their births.

IN AND OUT OF BED

Our District Secretary, Ron Cleland, and our District Webmaster, Barry Downs, are up and about and back performing their Rotary duties.

PP Alan Reynolds, the treasurer of the Youth Committee, underwent an emergency appendix operation and is back home again. All three are taking things easy on doctors' orders.

PP Barry Kriel of Kroonstad recently underwent major surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Penny Gold of Aliwal North has suffered two heart attacks recently and is recovering at her daughter's home. Please keep Penny and Brian in your thoughts and prayers.



ABSA ROTARY CONNECTION RIDE

We welcomed the cyclists of the Rotary Club of Empangeni to our district at Ficksburg. It is amazing that one Rotary club has so many cyclists (with one or two outsiders) prepared to cycle from Empangeni to Cape Town en route to the Argus Cycle Race. They are most disappointed that nobody in District 9320 joins them en route for a "small part of the trip". At each club en route they presented a cheque for R10 000 to be used on a project agreed upon by ABSA and the Rotary club concerned.

SPOUSE'S SPOT

Greetings to all Anns, Members of Inner wheel, and friends of Rotary.

We are home again after visiting almost all of the Clubs. What wonderful things we have seen and heard of that are happening in our district. Congratulations to you all and thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to your projects which are helping the needy in so many different ways.

We have visited a lot of community projects which have been involved with cooking of large quantities of food, often on a daily basis, either for permanent residents of homes or for delivery to individual houses. The electricity bills are often very high at these places.

Do you remember the Wonder boxes that we used for soup, stews and porridge making? I used one on a daily basis when our children were at school and they needed hot porridge in the morning often before I was ready to cook it! It worked so well, but then we all got Microwaves so there was either no place in the kitchen or no need for the Wonder Box. It would be a boon for those institutions who need to conserve the cost of electricity, and for the many child-headed households who could do a lot of food preparation in advance without the worry of leaving boiling pots on the stove. With winter coming in a few months' time the increase in electricity costs will also become a big problem for the elderly, particularly those who are living on a State Pension, so a small Wonderbox could be a big saving for them. We won't even think of the possibility of power cuts in winter.

I have the pattern which is suitable for a Wonderbox for a large saucepan and could easily be adapted for the very large saucepans or for a small saucepan. The two cushions (shaped like a nest with a cover) and filled with polystyrene can either be free standing or be placed inside a cardboard box (e.g. an apple box) If you would like a copy of the pattern and the instructions please contact me at jlpheath@absamail.co.za and I will let your club have a copy. Perhaps your club could have a work party and make a few to hand out to those who would benefit from them – they are not expensive to make.

If you need Merit Certificates for either your Anns' or Inner Wheel Club, do contact me and I will let your club have them soon in order to hand them out before the end of June - the end of this Rotary year. They cost R60.00 which then becomes part of your club's donation to the Rotary Foundation. They can be given to someone in your club, your Rotary club or someone in the community who deserves recognition for what they are doing and there are many of these people in our district.

With my best wishes to you all
Maureen



The children in the picture on the left all have something in common. They are all orphans; all are heads of their families (or the younger siblings of the heads of families); all do not have identity books and are thus unable to get child grants; all receive monthly food parcels as a result of an ABSA/Rotary Club of Ficksburg Imperani initiative. ABSA runs projects like this throughout the country and requests organizations to assist them. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only project where Rotary has stepped forward to help. The club does all the purchasing, sorting of food and is assisted in the delivery by social workers and teachers (some of whom are in the picture). Clubs can check with ABSA if they have assistance in their areas, and if not, can offer to assist in a worthwhile project.