



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9320  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR LIONEL HEATH  
2007 - 08



Governor's Monthly Newsletter

From the **Lion's Den**

May 2008

## DISTRICT 9320 vs THE POLIO VIRUS MONTH

### "POLIO ELIMINATION IS REALISTIC"

This is the first of the dreams (goals) for 2007-8 of Past RI President and Immediate Past Rotary Foundation Chair Bhichai Rattakul and his successor, Bob Scott, has continued with the same goals .

One of the gifts we received from a Mexican DGE at training in San Diego last year was a dream catcher that now hangs on our patio. One of the dreams we have caught in it is the Rotary dream of eliminating polio for once and for all. Hopefully our present presidents, after seeing a video of Bhichai at their training last year, have also caught or will follow his dream and will bring their clubs with them as the district commits itself to doing something towards eliminating this dreaded disease from our world.



Some editions of From the Lion's Den have covered this topic and all readers are fully aware that Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the countries where Polio is still a problem. Good news is that big strides have been taken in improving the situation during the year. In India, Rotarians are very aware of the problem and that is why they have been at the forefront of those giving large donations, one as high as US\$2 million, to the Polio campaign. Even better news is the increased co-operation from those that have previously refused immunisation.

In Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous province, 80% of its polio cases in 2007 occurred among Muslims. A Rotary-led initiative helped this drop to 30% during the first three months of 2008. This is thanks to the RI established Ulema Committee for Polio Eradication. (Ulemas are Muslim legal experts in Islamic law.) Muslim clerics and school representatives received a booklet, from India's National PolioPlus Committee, which linked polio immunization to the duties of parents listed in the Quran. Ulema committee members could help clear up any doubts about the polio vaccine. Parents have been convinced that the polio vaccine is safe and not contrary to Islam. Even the Saudi Arabian government has instructed pilgrims visiting Mecca and Medina with their children to carry polio vaccination certificates.

Somalia has once again become polio-free. The nation has not reported a case of polio in a year. Somalia eradicated the disease in 2002, but became reinfected in 2005 by a virus from Nigeria, resulting in 228 cases.

Innovative approaches for conflict areas were used. Volunteers and health workers immunized 1.8 million children in one of the world's dangerous countries. One of Somalia's volunteers is Ali Mao Moallim,

the last person on earth to contract smallpox - the first disease eradicated worldwide - in 1977. As Somalia was the last country with smallpox, he wanted to ensure that it would not be the last place with polio.

Rotary has a new web site to give the general public an chance to help end polio by contributing to Rotary's US\$100m Challenge from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. ([www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio))

Rotarians should, however, continue to contribute through the Member Access Portal at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

#### WHAT CAN WE IN 9320 DO?

Rotarians are innovative and I asked earlier for all clubs to have a special fundraising venture for Polio this month. I am sure there are good ideas.

More mundane ideas are:

Get each member, especially members that have joined since the last polio campaign, to make a special contribution to the fund OR get companies at which present or past members have positions of influence or contacts to make a company contribution.

**PAYMENTS SHOULD GO TO THE FISCAL AGENT, BUT PLEASE ENSURE YOU INDICATE THAT THEY ARE FOR POLIO.**

These donations will count towards Paul Harris Award credits for your club.

**The district is making an increased donation from its SHARE funds to the Polio campaign.**

## UNTO US CHILDREN ARE BORN ...

To the Rotary Club of Stutterheim, bonny twins, an Interact and an Earlyact Club.

To the Rotary Club of Gonubie, a bouncing Earlyact Club.

To District 9320 and the Rotary Club of East London, a bright and shining offspring, the Rotary Club of East London Sunrise. Special thanks to PDGs Tubby Grenfell and Ethne Papenfus who helped bring the baby into existence.

Seventeen clubs were represented at the charter of the Rotary Club of East London Sunrise.

The charter of a new club is very special and it was wonderful to see the support of other clubs, including the Rotary Club of Butterworth (District 9270) at the Charter Dinner. In addition, the next three guardians of the new baby, DGE Jaap Steyn, DGN Anne Botha and DGNN Richard Seymour were able to attend as well as PDGs Ethne Papenfus, Tubby Grenfell and Des Willis.

A wonderfully cheerful and positive evening of Sharing Rotary was enjoyed by all. We welcome the club to the Rotary Family of District 9320 and wish Charter President John Roberts, his board and his members every success for the future.



Members of the Rotary Club of PE East hand over a club bell to Charter President John Roberts at the EL Sunrise Charter dinner.

## ...AND ANOTHER CHILD TURNS TEN YEARS OLD.

**CONGRATULATIONS** from District 9320 and the Rotary Club of Arcadia to ROMEX (Rotary Medical Equipment Exchange) on its tenth birthday.

On 5 May a cocktail party was held at the ROMEX warehouse in East London to celebrate ten years since the start of the ROMEX project. This was a wonderfully joyous celebration as ROMEX is one of the really great projects in this district, if not in the Rotary world.

ROMEX has been run by PP Henk Kayser with support mainly from PP Raj Naidoo of the Rotary Club of Gately and Rotarians from the R.C of Arcadia.

In 1997 Henk visited Canada, the USA and Holland on a Carl Miller Discovery Grant to investigate importing used medical equipment that was still in good condition and better than most equipment in South Africa. Since then equipment (from ambulances down to the smallest piece of equipment) worth millions of rand has been imported to East London and from there to nearly all clubs in our district, and further afield.

During the course of the function, a Paul Harris Sapphire was presented to Henk by DG Lionel on behalf of District 9320 for his contribution to ROMEX. DG Lionel also, on behalf of the district, presented PP Raj Naidoo, who has assisted with the transport of ROMEX equipment free of charge, with his second Paul Harris Sapphire. Immediately afterwards Henk received his second sapphire from the Rotarians in The Netherlands who have worked with him on the project. This was handed over by President Rainier of the Arcadia Club.

New Paul Harris Sapphire recipients Henk Kayser and Raj Naidoo with DG Lionel wait for the cutting of the ROMEX birthday cake, suitably placed on a hospital bedside locker..



## 9320 PAUL HARRIS SAPPHIRE AWARDS

In addition to the two mentioned above, Paul Harris Sapphire awards were presented to various Rotarians in the district during the course of the Rotary year. These awards, approved during the last Rotary year, were presented to Rotarians for their contributions at district and international level.

PDG Charles Keast received his award some time back at his home as ill health prevented his attending club meetings. This was for his contribution to ROMEX and to the Rotary International Interact Committee. It was wonderful to see that Charles was able to attend the ROMEX celebration. Ironically, the warehouse is not suitable for wheelchairs and, thanks to a forklift driver from next door, Charles had his own lift to the party venue— a pallet atop a forklift..



Other District Paul Harris Sapphire presentations made during the year went to:

- PDGs Trevor Long, Bev Radue and Fred Roberts for their numerous major contributions at both district and international level;
- PDGs Mel Smethurst and Ron Stevens for their handling of grants and other Foundation programmes in the district;
- PDG Ken Stonestreet for his work with Medical Missions and Wheelchairs;
- Rotarians Ron Cleland and Billy de Klerk for their fine management of GSE in the district;
- Former treasurers John Inge and Johnny Ford for long, efficient service as district treasurers;
- Web Master Barry Downs for his wonderful but time-consuming work with the District website.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL!**

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR FOR 2010-11

The District Nominating Committee has nominated Richard Seymour of the Rotary Club of Bonza Bay for the position of District Governor Nominee. This means he will succeed Anne Botha as District Governor in 2010-11.

Richard has proved himself to be one of the most efficient and effective Assistant Governors and his love for Rotary will ensure that he leads this district further on its successful road.

## COUNCIL OF SOUTH AND EAST AFRICAN ROTARY GOVERNORS (COSEA)

District 9320 was well represented at the meeting of COSEA in Durban last month.

PDG Ken Stonestreet received praise for his chairing of the meeting and for the fact that this meeting included action as well as talk.

DGE Jaap proved to be one of the comics of the meeting and his toast during which we were asked to "charge to our glasses" fortunately did not lead to chaos as our glasses were right before us.

DGN Anne Botha stunned the old men as they did not believe "a young girl like that" could make such a powerful presentation.

The district received special credit for its ten year membership figures - by far the lowest decrease.

**DISTRICT 9320 CAN HOLD ITS HEAD HIGH!**

## INCOMING CLUB OFFICIALS TRAINED

The following article in a club bulletin was written by a new Rotarian to the district who was a Rotarian (and club president) in England. He attended POETS in Colesberg last month.

"Having attended loads of various training occasions in The UK over the past 20 years, I can happily say that this weekend was the best organised and most relevant training occasion I have ever attended. The way that groups were organised, and the huge number of experienced trainers involved ensured that every single person came away enlightened and enhanced.

It's not only about training, it's about fellowship, and there was plenty of that to be had. Interaction between Rotarians, especially in a district as geographically large as this isn't that easy, and POETS and conference is where it's at.

POETS is about training but also what the new Rotary Year has to offer and the hopes and aspirations of the new District Governor and his team. What we can do to help the community, and how we as a club, can interact with the rest of the District and with the rest of Rotary worldwide to achieve this? How we can also gain the most from Rotary as individuals and as clubs? That is what the weekend is supposed to be all about, and in my opinion it certainly achieved its goals."

**WELL DONE TO DGE JAAP, THE DISTRICT TRAINERS AND ALL INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING.**

## VISIT OF THE FOUNDATION CHAIR

**PORT ELIZABETH  
EDWARD HOTEL**

**COST : R80.00  
JACKET & TIE**



**WEDNESDAY 21 MAY: 19:00 FOR 19:30**

Contact addresses and details sent to all clubs  
Replies needed by 10 May. Get a group together.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

At a very smart function last month the Rotary Club of Algoa Bay celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its charter. Two visiting PDGs from the United States attended as guests of honour.

During May the Rotary Club of De Aar will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in June the Rotary Club of Harrismith will be fifty years old.

Earlier this Rotary year the Rotary Club of Graaff Reinet celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its charter dinner although its actual charter was in the last Rotary year.

The Rotary Clubs of Uitenhage and Potchefstroom both celebrate diamond anniversaries during this Rotary year - Uitenhage's was last September and Potch will have theirs in June this year.

## ROTARY FAMILY NEWS

DG Ann Pixie Radue is home after heart surgery and is getting stronger daily.

Jan Ruytenbeek, husband of Pres. Trudy of Ficksburg Imperani, is not at all well at present.

THE DISTRICT WISHES THEM BOTH  
A SPEEDY RECOVERY



Congratulations to Rotarian Jack van Eyssen of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth (seen here flanked by President Linda Jones and PDG Fred Roberts) on his club award in recognition of thirty-five continuous years of 100% Rotary attendance. This was presented at the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary celebration of the club last month.

**IS THIS A RECORD FOR THE DISTRICT?**

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## SPOUSE'S SPOT

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

How good it was to see so many of the Anns and Members of Inner Wheel at POETS recently. We had a busy day – learned quite a bit about ourselves; had some ideas on how to become leader; found out what others have achieved and had some information on the running of our clubs. There was a good representation from the clubs.

The end of the Rotary year is just a couple of months away and I still hope that we will achieve a good donation to the Foundation from our Clubs. The following Anns'/Inner Wheel clubs have already made donations (recorded up to and including the end of April 2008)- Arcadia, Bonza Bay, East London, Flamingo, Kroonstad, Orkney, Port Alfred, Port Elizabeth, Queenstown and Viljoenskroon. Thank you very much to these clubs. I have handed out Merit Certificates to several Clubs (R60.00 each) and these donations have also gone to the Foundation.

I visited the Uitenhage South Anns recently and was pleased to meet their very active President Denise Swift. Denise was the DG Ann in 1984 – 1985. She has remained very involved in Rotary all this time and runs a very efficient and dynamic Club. In Port Elizabeth there are two other clubs with equally enthusiastic and efficient PDG Ann Presidents this year – Denise Long of Algoa (1998 – 1999) and Cathy Willis of Port Elizabeth (2004 – 2005).

Do remember the plastic sleeping bags as the weather turns cooler. They also provide a very successful hands-on projects for the Interact and Early Act Clubs. The bags (in rolls of 50 which will make 25 sleeping bags) are available from Rotarian Michelle Leahy at 041 586 2838 [www.bizbox.co.za](http://www.bizbox.co.za) The cost is approximately R150.00 per roll of 50.

Michelle is also a distributor for ePap.

With my best wishes to you all

Maureen

### A SUCCESSFUL MINI GRANT PROJECT

Through a mini grant awarded by District 9320 and the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Jeffreys Bay, the Rotary Anns' Club of Kroonstad was able to donate two overlocker machines to a sewing class for domestic workers and unemployed ladies.

For the past 15 years Mrs. Betha Macdonald has, on her own, been giving sewing classes once a week to a group of up to 17 women. They were in great need of overlocking machines and this donation brought about lots of happiness and a positive outlook for the future for these women. In the picture with some of the ladies are Betha Macdonald, Instructor, Goegie Kruger and Kroonstad Anns' President Jeanette Nasveld."



#### *Late news:*

#### **GSE TEAMS ANNOUNCED**

**The two GSE teams for DGE Jaap Steyn's year (2008-9) were selected over the first weekend of May.**

PP Alan Reynolds of Uitenhage South will take a team to England in September 2008. The team will consist of Adri Kock and Hein Grobler (Kimberley South); Ninette Rautenbach (Uitenhage South) and Ishmael Tshap (Viljoenskroon).

In March 2009 PP PJ Cloete will take the other team to Virginia in the USA. This team will be: Annalize Cloete (Port Alfred); Norah De Wet-Hayes (PE Sunrise); Grant Butler (PE West) and Trevor Harbottle (Kingwilliamstown).