

Rotary



ROTARY CLUB OF ST FRANCIS

Rotary District 9370

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CLUB NEWSLETTER No 3

APRIL 2021

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to our monthly newsletter.

Please feel free to send contributions and updates for inclusion in each issue and share freely with friends and family or anyone interested in our activities.

For those who weren't there

Our "Live" meeting on Wednesday evening, 28th April was chaired by President Santa, with our Sergeant for the evening, Tom Roux, keeping us all on our toes and Jo Brown doing the honours as Duty Officer. We were all thrilled to welcome Brian Codling back into the fold looking so fit and well after his major surgery. Apologies from Paul Sherman, Cath Mitchley, Dave Truter, Manfred Burkert, Keith Alford, Arthur Baggott and Nerine Botha.

The winner of the evening's lucky draw (a bottle of the house best courtesy of George) was Tom Roux

Good news for the evening is that we agreed to return to our bi-monthly meetings. Our next meeting will therefore be on Wednesday 12th May – 17h00 for 17h30 at The Links as usual. We also agreed that we would have a second meeting for the month as a lunch meeting 13h00 for 13h30 to 14h30 on a weekday that suits most of our members so I will be calling on you for your input on that. With the winter months rapidly approaching it is likely that the Links will soon be closing earlier meaning our evening meetings will have to move to an earlier slot, so lunch meetings may be the norm from June through to spring.

The Board feedback provided by President Santa centred around the allocation of duties for the Club's Key Areas of Focus and Avenues of Service. Rtn Paul Sherman has been working with the Board to tighten our focus and a final meeting will be held ahead of our next meeting on the 12th to allocate each club member with his or her tasks. You have all been given the opportunity to look over these and provide comment and suggestions. Now is your opportunity to let us know if you have a preference for what you would like to do.

The Key Areas of Focus are Health, Education, Environment, Fundraising and Partnerships.

So far, Brian Codling will be leading Health, and Paul Sherman will lead on Environment.

With regard to Avenues of Service, thanks to Manfred Burkert who has indicated that he would take the lead on Fellowship. So anyone with any ideas for some fun, fellowship or speaker suggestions, please discuss these with Manfred.

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Thanks also to Jo Brown who has put up her hand to lead our Youth programmes which include youth exchange, Rotary Interact Club at Woodridge and RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) when these become active again. Jo had some lovely news for us on the exchange programme but as this involves a big surprise for a certain person I am not going to publish anything. Suffice to say that Jo will be calling for support from us all when the cat is out of the bag!

On Partnerships, after a year of COVID turmoil communications have gone quiet with many of our key international partners it is important to re-build these relationships so that we can maintain the momentum on all of our projects and causes we support. With Club activities slowly starting to return to the pre-COVID "normal" we all agreed it is time to reach out to all our Rotary friends and supporters further afield. Hopefully it will not be too long before we can welcome some of these friends back to St Francis for some very overdue fellowship! In the meantime we will be sending our newsletter out to all of them to keep them abreast of our club's activities.

Fundraising has also taken a hard knock during the pandemic. This has affected organisations across the board so there is much hard work needed in this area. Jo came up with some cracking good suggestions which she is going to look into and will feedback at the next meeting. Another WOW (Wine on Water event) meeting is planned within the next couple of weeks when that committee will again re-assess whether it will be possible to set a date to go ahead with this important fundraiser. And it just may be possible for our golf day to go ahead soon if our sponsor is agreeable.

The FOSTER appeal for funding is being set aside until such time as we have managed to get some fundraising under way and funds are once again available for allocation. Brian and George will be working hard to identify a way to raise much needed funds for Hospice as well. So any and all ideas welcome !

On matters financial, Tom Roux filled us in on our anonymous Family Foundation's latest contribution of R300 000.00. A meeting is to be held next week with key members to decide on the project allocation for these funds and Tom will feedback on the decisions on the spend at the next meeting. He also informed us that the same foundation have pledged a further R200 000 for the following year and another R100 000 for the year after that. Really great news with exciting developments to follow!

Ivan briefly summed up the Club's finances – fundraising is needed!

And, if you haven't already done so, please bring your dues up to date. As you all know the Club has to pay Club dues for each of its members to RI and District ahead of members being invoiced. So effectively the Club is out of pocket if dues are outstanding. Membership dues will again be invoiced in June so best not to get behind.

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Club Activities for April :

Following an appeal we received through social media channels, we were able to assist in a very needy case.

78 year old Mr Smith Miggels of Graslagaite in Humansdorp suffered a stroke which left him paralysed from the waist down. He was delighted to receive a brand new wheelchair from our Club which was sourced through the Dischem Foundation and Cheshire Homes in Port Elizabeth. He is seen here with his grand daughter Lauren Percent and his wife Katrina. The new wheel chair will make the world of difference to the family members who care for Mr Miggels while at the same time providing him with mobility and a degree of independence. Thank you very much indeed to everyone concerned.



A big thank you to Nina and Jeff Forrer of Santareme for the donation of a fridge/freezer to the St Francis Fire Department. Our firemen and Working on Fire Teams will make great use of this when the weary fire fighters return to the base for food and rest. And well done Tom Roux and Ivan Beaumont for facilitating this important donation.



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Looking Good – At last the Jungle Jim we found for the Tharros Child and Youth Care Centre in Hankey has been installed. Founder Taise Sampson wrote to Tom Roux, “The children are delighted and it really makes our little playground complete. Thank you!!”



Thanks to Ivan and Craig who visited the Rotary Club of Gately during their recent trip to East London and collected various items of medical equipment from their store. Thanks also to Brian and George for the organisation. Last week we handed over the various pieces of equipment which included mobility aids such as stretchers and walkers, crutches, and two wheelchairs.

Seen below at the hand over are President Santa with Rotarians Ivan Beaumont and Brian Coidling with Drs Jean Malan and Anina Ellis as well as physiotherapist Fouche Swart. Dr Malan was deeply thankful to our team for this very donation. “The State does not supply this sort of equipment to outlying areas,” said Malan. “Although it is all second hand, the condition is not important to our patients at the Sea Vista clinic in need of assistance. It will make the world of difference for those folk in need and the people who care for them.”



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Included in the collection was a large bag of sanitary pads which were handed over to Alice and Shaida of Sibanye Ladies group for their basic hygiene project for Sea Vista teens. A big thanks to the Club from the Sibanye Ladies!



It's worth telling our members more about this amazing facility. The Rotary Club of Gately in East London was founded 50 years ago and has 50 members, some of whom have been members for 40 years!

Take a peek at their website : <https://gatelyrotary.co.za/>

In brief about the warehouse – this was established 18 years by ROMEX with its main objective to improve quality of life for the sick, frail and disabled members of society with medical equipment donated from overseas sponsors in the medical fields.

The Gately warehouse has since taken on a life of its own with the warehousing of JAM products, nutritious dry foodstuff, sponsored by KFC and fed to some 10 000 children on a daily basis at Early Childhood Centres around the Eastern Cape. The warehouse also stocks a vast quantity of foodstuff donated by Brand Houses of goods, where labels and packages have been damaged and earmarked for children's orphanages and old aged homes. The project is known as Robin Good.

Whilst there is no payment required for goods taken from the warehouse by other Rotary Clubs, donations to the Gately Club are customary. Another container is expected during May and we will be arranging another visit to this great facility, and this time Dr Malan or another medical professional will be invited to accompany our team to ensure the most needed and useful items are selected.

Three cheers for Gately!

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Our Club has been holding funds raised at the last Flash Float event on behalf of the Flash Float Committee. These funds are mostly utilised for needs at either Talhado Childrens Haven or Disney Creche. This month Tom arrange for a new geyser to be fitted at Disney at a cost of R3600.00 paid from the Flash Float funds. Their cook looks very happy with the improvement!



MY ROTARY : (Myrotary.org/)

If you haven't already registered on My Rotary, it's well worth doing so. There is a mine of information on all things Rotary and you will find answers to just about any questions you might have. If you've been asked to take up a role or fulfil a function in the Club and not sure what is entailed find it under the "Learning and Reference" tab and learn all about it.