

Rotary

Club of St Francis



OCT - JAN 2025

CLUB NEWSLETTER No 26

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF ST FRANCIS!

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to the incredible St Francis Bay community and all of our friends for your generous support throughout 2024. Because of your kindness and generosity, we've been able to make a real difference in the lives of the underprivileged in our community over the past year.

From our Rotary family to yours, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your contributions have truly helped us bring hope and change to those who need it most.

May 2025 bring you health, prosperity, and continued blessings.
Thank you for being a part of our journey.



Rotary
Club of St Francis





Club News

Our Club President and his wife, Anne, welcomed Rotary District 9370 Governor Raj Ramchunder and his wife Shereen from Durban, and our Assistant District Governor, Eusentha Pillay from Port Elizabeth, to our Club meeting on 5th November. Always such an honour to have the opportunity to meet our dignitaries and showcase our Club.

Sadly the weather was not on our side so project visits were not possible but our Club members enjoyed the opportunity to listen to the DG's feedback on District affairs. DG Raj had attended our Steering Committee meeting before the Club meeting and we were delighted to hear how impressed he was with our Club's management.



We were delighted to welcome another new member to the team at our meeting on 26 November. Introduced by Rtn Mark Johnson, Diana Biggs was warmly welcomed by the Club and inducted by President Manfred. We are looking forward to working with you Diana!



Project Updates

It has been such a privilege to be in a position to give generously over the past year!



ST FRANCIS HOSPICE

We were able to donate a much needed child-size wheelchair to be used for Hospice's younger patients as required. The chair was immediately put to good use when Hospice passed it on to the Rainbow Centre for use by one of the special needs pupils. A wonderful example of cooperation between ourselves and our beneficiaries.



The 6312 **AMAZING** RACE

THE AMAZING RACE **FOR HOSPICE**

Our annual fundraiser for St Francis Hospice took place on 9 December in perfect weather and was **AMAZING!**

We are extremely grateful to our first time 6312 Amazing Race sponsors, Dirk Ellis Volkswagen in Humansdorp. Their generous donation of R20 000 was handed over at the prize giving celebration by Werner van Wyk to Hospice Sisters Nadine Puzicha and Elsa Senekal.

Including this amazing donation, Rotary Club of St Francis and St Francis Tourism managed to raise approximately R75 000 for St Francis Hospice Kouga Region.

Our heartfelt thanks must go to all our many generous sponsors who sponsored the 22 checkpoints as well as an amazing array of prizes valued at approximately R10 000 which included dog food sponsored by Buco for St Francis Animal Rescue!!

The prize giving was generously hosted by St Francis Brewery where the Yates Family team were pronounced winners of the race, and the Lady Bugs team (including their car) were awarded the prize for the best dressed team.

To all the wonderful competitors who made up 28 team entries and raced their way through the morning with such great joy and enthusiasm, thank you for supporting this event for such a worthy cause! And last but not least thank you to our team of hard working volunteers who make these events possible.

Project leader, Errol Burman officially handed over R75 000 to delighted Hospice Sisters Ingrid Williams and Nadine Puzicha at the Dirk Ellis Volkswagen showroom in January.

At the same time he presented Werner van Wyke with the Club's Certificate of Appreciation for Dirk Ellis sponsorship.



Project Updates

ANIMAL WELFARE

Rotary St Francis President Manfred Burkert visited the St Francis Animal Expo on 20 December to help make these wonderful charities' Christmas a little brighter.

Spay It Forward, SPCA Assissi, J-Bay Animal Rescue, St Francis Animal Rescue and the very new Oyster Bay Animal Welfare were each presented with our Club's donation for this year – a whopping R30 000 each!

A big thank you goes to each of these organisations for the very important work they are doing for animal welfare and sterilisation in our community.



GOLDEN OLDIES SANTA GIFT BAGS

Our annual project to provide gift bags to the neediest amongst senior citizens and frail folks in our community was made possible by the Village Super Spar who assisted with the collection of funds and enabled us to purchase goodies at their cost. Spar also made the beautiful Festive cup cakes for our tea party.

This year's bags were filled with both essential hygiene products and sweet treats including a special small personalized gift packet in each bag thoughtfully created by the children of St Francis College as their Thoughtful Thursday project for their last term.

A huge Festive thank you to Spar and to St Francis College!

100 gift bags were distributed to the most needy residents of Ons Tuiste Retirement Home and Assisted Living Facility in Humansdorp at a special tea party where the College choir entertained us all with a medley of Christmas carols.



Project Updates



DISNEYLAND CRECHE - SEA VISTA

A Magical Transformation!

Rotary Club of St Francis is thrilled to share the incredible results of the Disneyland Creche Back Garden Project, a true labor of love made possible by generous donations from Fir st Dutch Brands and the support of a talented local landscaper. We installed Trellis Screening, Log Rolls, and Planter Boxes, and with the children's involvement, we planted Kale, Spinach, and Tomatoes—vegetables that will not only beautify the space but can also be used in the kitchen at Disneyland. A new tap was also added for easy access to water, encouraging the kids to care for the garden weekly.

This project is all about creating an inspiring, hands-on learning experience for the children, allowing them to watch their garden grow and flourish over time. It's been a privilege to help enhance their outdoor area, fostering a connection with nature while promoting sustainability and healthy living. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making this vision a reality!

And - Thanks to the generous support of the Rotary Club of St Francis, all the children from Disneyland Creche had the chance to enjoy an unforgettable day at Mooihoek Strawberry Farm in Patensie on the 4th of December.

Laughter, fun, and excitement could be heard all around the farm as every child took part in this special end-of-year outing - something that hasn't always been possible in the past due to financial challenges faced by many families. What an amazing day it was for all the children!



A LETTER OF THANKS TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF ST FRANCIS FROM MR CF COENRAAD, PRINCIPLE



On behalf of the staff, SGB, learners, and the entire Sea Vista Primary School community, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued generosity and support. The funding of two educators for the 2025 academic year is an incredible gift that will make a significant impact on the quality of education we are able to provide to our learners.

Your commitment to education and to uplifting our school is truly inspiring. By ensuring the financial support for these educators, along with the inclusion of the 13th cheque, you have lightened a significant burden and allowed us to focus more on the academic and developmental needs of our learners.

Furthermore, we deeply appreciate your willingness to continue covering the cost of the maintenance service offered by Mr. Andrew Vena. This demonstrates your unwavering dedication not only to the academic environment but also to the overall functionality and sustainability of our school.

Your kindness and generosity serve as a beacon of hope and encouragement to us all. It is partnerships like this that remind us of the power of community and shared responsibility in shaping a brighter future for our children.

We are truly blessed to have the Rotary Club of St Francis as a valued partner. Thank you once again for your support, and we wish you and your members a joyful festive season and continued success in all your endeavours in 2025.

SEA VIST CLINIC

We were able to respond to an appeal from the Clinic sisters for more clinic furniture and supplied 16 plastic chairs and 4 office chairs. We received this note of thanks:

“St Francis Bay clinic staff wants to thank Rotary club once again for responding to our needs, when we asked for office and patient chairs.

The office chairs were really in a state that we could not use it as it was broken and risk for injuries. The chairs in the waiting room was not enough for our patients and some of the sick and weak patients had to stand up to the point that we had to ask stable young clients to stand to make space for the needy ones.

THANK YOU ROTARY FOR LIGHTENED OUR BURDEN”



Project Updates



RAINBOW CENTRE, HUMANSDORP

Our Club recently adopted the Rainbow Centre for special needs children in Humansdorp as one of our projects going forward. They currently have 78 children attending their school.

We were delighted to be able to donate funds for a Christmas gift for each child at the school which they received at their Christmas party. Going forward we will be making a donation of much needed school stationery for these children.



KROMME ENVIRO TRUST WALKWAY REPAIRS

The iconic walkway in St Francis Bay known as the Two Harbours Walk, was badly damaged in the terrific winter storms we experienced this year. We provided funding towards the repairs of section of the walkway to ensure that at least part of it would be serviceable in time for our holiday visitors to use. We contributed to three main structures above the high water mark which came to R40 000 in total. The walkway will need to be re-designed to avoid further storm damage and we look forward to assisting with that project.



Fundraisers



BILLIES BEACH BALLIES CHARITY EVENT

Yes – They've done it again!

A heartfelt thank you to Billy's Beach for entrusting the proceeds from this year's Ballie's Charity Event on 2 January 2025 to the Rotary Club of St Francis.

This year's contribution is an incredible R750,000!

We are committed to ensuring that every cent is spent wisely on the beneficiary projects jointly agreed upon by Billy's Beach and ourselves. This generous contribution will have a profound impact on our community.

These are some of the projects we achieved together in 2024!

SEA VISTA FOOTBALL CLUBS KITS



EIGHTS FROM SEA VISTA AND EACH CLUB RECEIVED TWO SETS OF STRIP - ONE FOR SENIOR SIDE & ONE FOR AWAY GAMES OR JUNIORS.



WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK MIKES SPORTS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP.





Rotary
Club of St Francis

LEGO DUPLO™ TRAINING WITH



THIS PROJECT SHOULD LEAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON MORE THAN 600 PUPILS!

ST FRANCIS CYCLING CLUB - MAINTENANCE & UPGRADING



SANITARY PADS AND NAPPIES FOR SCHOOLS IN THE COMMUNITY

Making a Difference Together

Billy's Beach 🌴

Rotary
Club of St Francis

Fundraisers



FLASH FLOAT 2024

The annual Flash Float on 29 December was an astonishing spectacle with 4000 happy participants floating on their colourful inflatables down the beautiful St Francis canals. This was the first time the Rotary Club of St Francis hosted the event and hats off to our management team for putting together a seamless event! The wind tried to steal the show, but it only cranked up the adventure and the fun!

A big thank you to the NSRI, Woodridge College & Preparatry School Lifeguards, St Francis Paddling Club, and Kouga Traffic Control for keeping us safe and the countless volunteers who made this event such a success.

And, last but certainly not least, the 4,000 smiling faces that joined us on the water. We raised nearly R400,000 for Talhado Children's Haven Montessori School in Sea Vista and other local charities

What an incredible day—see you all next year!



WE ARE ROTARIANS

WE BRIDGE CONTINENTS

WE BUILD COMMUNITIES

WE SERVE ABOVE SELF

WE CURE DISEASE

WE BUILD MINDS

WE BUILD PEACE

WE BRING HOPE

WE SAVE LIVES

Rotary



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DID YOU KNOW DONATING TO ROTARY IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?



Be part of a community dedicated
to making a lasting impact.
Let's make a difference together!

Rotary Club of St Francis

www.rotarystfrancisbay.org

At The Rotary Club of St Francis Bay, we believe in the transformative power of generosity. The Club has recently had its application for income tax exemption, approved. Now, you have the opportunity to make a difference and receive tax benefits under Section 18A of the South African Income Tax Act.

WHY DONATE TO US?

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY: Your donation qualifies for a Section 18A tax deduction, allowing you to reduce your taxable income and support a cause that you care about.

TRANSPARENT GIVING: We are a registered Section 18A public benefit organization. You can be assured that every cent donated is carefully monitored according to our Clubs strict governance rules .

COMMUNITY IMPACT: Join us in creating positive change within our community. Not only do we select well deserving community projects to support, but we also make meaningful contributions to organisations such as the NSRI, Foster, Animal Welfare, Hospice, Kromme Enviro Trust, and many others.



HOW TO DONATE TO US?

Visit our website www.rotarystfrancisbay.org should you require any additional details about our club and the activities that we involve ourselves in.

Contact our Club Treasurer Mike Rishworth:
082 339 9294 or mike.rishie@gmail.com for more details about your donation.

You are welcome to specify what worthy cause you would like to support, and Rotary will make sure that your special request is carried out.

Once your donation has been received you will be issued with an official receipt which includes all the details needed for a hassle-free process when submitting your tax return and claiming your tax deduction.

Your Donation Matters! Whether big or small, every donation counts.

**Be part of a community dedicated to making a lasting impact.
Let's make a difference together!**



ROTARY'S SEVEN AREAS OF FOCUS:

- 1) Peace and conflict prevention/resolution.
- 2) Disease prevention and treatment.
- 3) Water and sanitation.
- 4) Maternal and child health.
- 5) Basic education and literacy.
- 6) Economic and community development.
- 7) Supporting the environment.

ALL PAST ISSUES OF OUR NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.ROTARYSTFRANCISBAY.ORG/NEWS

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.

Rotary

Club of St Francis



Club No : 90539 Rotary District 9370

NPO 282-381 – PBO 930078408

Editor : Lyn Aitken 082 777 5624

Email : contact@rotarystfrancisbay.org

www.rotarystfrancisbay.org

As you may be aware, the Protection of Personal Information (POPIA) Act is now in effect (1 July 2021). The Rotary Club of St Francis is in full support of having your full consent to continue to receive communication from us and we are therefore required to remind you that as a club bulletin recipient your information will be used for the sole purpose of receiving club news from us.

Should you wish to OPT-OUT of receiving any further newsletters from us, you may do so by sending us an email with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. If you would like to continue to receive our newsletters then no further action is required – please note that by not unsubscribing you agree to remain an OPT-IN recipient and a voluntary recipient of the Rotary Club of St Francis' News mailing list.