

Rotary Club of St Francis



CLUB NEWSLETTER No 31

MARCH TO JUNE 2026

<http://rotarystfrancisbay.org/news/>

Greetings Rotarians and friends

We are delighted to welcome our President for the 2026/2027 Rotary year, Ivan Beaumont. Ivan was inducted at our annual dinner hosted by St Francis Links on 25th June 2026.

As a long standing Rotarian, and Past President of the Rotary Club of Uitenhage South, Ivan brings a wealth of experience to this role, and we are looking forward to his steady guidance through the year ahead.



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The following is his address to the Club on accepting his chain of office.

“Thank you for putting your trust in me and I accept the chain of office and the opportunity to serve this club as its next President.

In her absence, we thank our Past President Lesley de Jager for the long hours, and dedicated service she gave to this club. We wish her all the very best in whichever path she and Wikus take into the future.

The last few years have highlighted how successful we are at filling our coffers, and the ongoing challenges we face, and overcome, to alleviate the suffering and living conditions of the poor in our community. We are involved in helping in many areas of need, and after sitting with Mike, our in-house cash register, we will continue to support these activities plus any new requests that we receive and approve.

We have strong team leaders in place to manage our income projects and as a club we commit to support Jef and Mark with WoW, Diana with Flash Float and Errol with the Amazing Race.

The recent Strategic Session we attended at the River Club, where strong involvement and input highlighted activities that we do right, we became aware of which ones we need to discontinue and some we need to implement. We now feel we have charted a clear path to remain as a positive force in our community. Special thanks to Wayne Furphy, our facilitator, for his time and guidance on the day.

We will endeavour to ensure that all of us are involved in one or more club projects, as well as with decisions on both income and expenditure, but I challenge each one of you to step forward and offer your help and input. A busy Club is a healthy Club !”

Ivan then introduced the Club Board for the new year:

Lyn Aitken- Secretary
Mike Rishworth– Treasurer
Sam Verbaan
Diana Biggs
Gavin Olivier
Mark Johnson

Outgoing President, Lesley de Jager was not able to attend, but asked Past President Lindsay Pearson to read her report for her year to the Club. She sent her warm regards to everyone gathered here this evening.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025/2026:

As Lesley reflects on her year as President of the Rotary Club of St Francis, she does so with a heart full of gratitude.

When she accepted this role a year ago, she knew there would be responsibilities and challenges, but could never have imagined just how much the club would achieve together. It has been a year of service, growth, learning and, above all, community.

Rotary's motto, Service Above Self, has been the guiding principle behind everything we have done this year. Time and again, Lesley witnessed members of this club step forward to serve, often quietly and without recognition, simply because it was the right thing to do.

One of our first major achievements was the completion of the Fire Station Revamp Project. After months of planning, fundraising and hard work, the club officially opened the upgraded facility in July. It was a proud moment for our club and for the community, creating a more functional and welcoming environment for the firefighters who dedicate their lives to protecting us.

At the time, none of us could have anticipated just how important that project would become. In January, devastating fires swept through our region. What followed was one of the most humbling experiences of Lesley's year as President.

She remembers arriving at the fire station on the Thursday evening after the fires had broken out earlier that morning. Dinner was prepared and everyone waited for the first firefighters to return. It was close to 11 o'clock that night when they finally came in. They were exhausted. Their eyes were bloodshot from the smoke, their faces showed the strain of a long and relentless day, yet after a quick meal and a few moments to regroup, they headed straight back out to continue protecting our community.

For seven days, Rotarians coordinated and provided meals for approximately 150 firefighters and volunteers every day, followed by a further three days of support during the mop-up operations.

As the days passed, the demands on these men and women became even more evident. By Saturday, many had still not taken any meaningful time off.

Community members rallied together to support them. Rotary appealed for eye drops, which were administered by nurses from our local clinic. Paramedics provided vitamin drips to help keep firefighters going. They would come in, change their gear, grab something to eat or drink, receive whatever care they could, and then head straight back to the fire line.

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Witnessing this first hand was one of the most humbling experiences of Lesley's life. These firefighters and volunteers embodied Service Above Self long before Rotary arrived with meals and support. Their courage, commitment and selflessness left a lasting impression on her, and reminded us all of the extraordinary people who serve our community every day.

This year also saw the introduction of our inaugural ShowCare event in October. As a completely new initiative for our club, it required considerable planning, coordination and commitment from our members. The club embraced the challenge wholeheartedly, and the event proved to be a tremendous success. More importantly, it demonstrated what can be achieved when Rotarians come together with a shared vision and a willingness to serve. Lesley is immensely proud of every member who contributed to making this first-time event such a success.

Wine on Water once again showcased the incredible strength of our club and our community partnerships. This flagship event continues to grow from strength to strength and remains one of the most important fundraising opportunities for the beneficiaries we support. The countless hours invested by members, sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers ensure that the event not only succeeds financially, but also strengthens Rotary's presence and impact within our community.

Throughout the year the club remained committed to its vision of supporting education and community development. Through partnerships with schools, community organisations and beneficiaries, Rotary continued to invest in opportunities that create lasting impact and improve lives. Whether through education initiatives, feeding schemes, infrastructure projects or emergency support, Rotary remained focused on serving where the need is greatest. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our members.

To the Board, thank you for your support, guidance and commitment throughout the year. Leadership is never a solo journey, and Lesley is grateful to every one of you who shared the responsibility of serving this club. To our members, thank you for your willingness to volunteer your time, energy and expertise. Every project, every fundraiser and every act of service is built upon your commitment to making a difference. To our sponsors, donors and community partners, thank you for believing in our vision and for standing alongside us. Your generosity allows Rotary to extend its reach and increase its impact.

This year has taught many lessons. It has reinforced that leadership is not about standing in front; it is about standing alongside others. It is about listening, learning, adapting and remaining focused on the purpose that unites us. Most importantly, it has reminded us that Rotary is not defined by meetings, projects or events. Rotary is defined by people. People who care. People who serve. People who step forward when others step back.

As Lesley's term comes to an end, she does so with immense pride in what the club has achieved together and gratitude for the friendships, experiences and lessons this year has provided.

To our incoming President, Ivan, congratulations on your induction. Lesley wishes you every success in the year ahead. You inherit a club filled with passionate, capable and committed Rotarians, and she has every confidence

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that under your leadership the Rotary Club of St Francis will continue to thrive and make a meaningful difference in our community.

In closing, thank you for allowing her the privilege of serving as your President. It has been an honour. Service Above Self.



CONGRATULATIONS TONY YOELL : PAUL HARRIS FELLOW!

President Ivan Beaumont presented the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award to Optometrist Tony Yoell in recognition of his exemplary service to the needy in our community. This gentleman has offered his time and professional service every Thursday for the last 10 years by attending to those in need of eye treatment in the Sea Vista community. In addition, he has played a leading role in assisting our club to meet its wish to help 19 blind patients receive cataract operations at an eye clinic in Gqeberha over the past two years. Congratulations Tony and thank you for your selfless service!

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This year Tony, assisted by Magaretha de Bruyn of Blink Optometrists in St Francis, identified 9 needy candidates for life changing cataract removal. These patients received their surgery in Gqeberha on 8th May where Dr du Toit and his team perform the surgeries at no cost. Our Club funds the cost of the operating theatre and materials as well as the transport for the patients. A truly life changing team project between these dedicated professionals and our Rotary Club!



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WELCOME TO THE CLUB : IAIN SKINNER

President Lesley de Jager and President Elect Ivan welcomed Iain into the Rotary Club of St Francis in May, and we are thrilled to have him join our Rotary family. We have no doubt Iain will be a real asset to our Club and our endeavours to uplift our community and environment. Welcome aboard Iain!

INTERACT CLUB FEEDBACK : RYLA 2026

Contributed by Lisa Barnard, Woodridge Interact Club

Earlier this year, I had the incredible privilege of attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp alongside three other girls from my school. We are sincerely grateful to the St Francis Rotary Club for giving us this opportunity, as it was an experience that has had a lasting impact on all of us. Over the course of four unforgettable days, we learned valuable lessons about leadership, teamwork and personal growth.

From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed into an environment that encouraged us to step outside our comfort zones and embrace new challenges. Through a variety of team-building activities, leadership exercises, and group discussions, we discovered that leadership is about much more than simply taking charge.

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We learned that a true leader listens, supports others, acts with integrity, and inspires those around them through their actions.

One of the most rewarding aspects of RYLA was the opportunity to meet people from different schools, communities, and cultural backgrounds. Although many of us came from very different backgrounds, we quickly realised that we shared similar hopes, dreams, and challenges. Listening to others share their personal stories helped us develop a greater understanding of different perspectives and reminded us of the importance of empathy, kindness, and acceptance. By the end of the camp, many of the people we had met as strangers had become close friends.

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The talks presented throughout the camp were inspiring and thought provoking. Each speaker brought unique experiences and insights that challenged us to think differently about ourselves and the world around us. We learned about resilience, effective communication, self-confidence, responsibility, and the importance of maintaining a positive mindset even when faced with adversity. These were not just lessons that applied to leadership, but lessons that we can carry with us throughout our lives. The speakers encouraged us to believe in our own potential, to embrace opportunities for growth, and to understand that every challenge presents an opportunity to learn.

One of the greatest lessons I took away from RYLA was the importance of being open to learning from others. Every conversation, whether during an activity, a meal, or free time, offered a chance to gain a new perspective. I realised that everyone has a story worth listening to and that by sharing our experiences, we can encourage and inspire one another. The camp created an atmosphere where everyone felt valued and supported, allowing us to grow not only as individuals but also as part of a community.

Throughout the four days, I also developed greater confidence in myself. I became more willing to contribute my ideas, work collaboratively with others, and take on new challenges without fear of making mistakes. RYLA reminded me that personal growth often begins when we push beyond what feels comfortable, and that confidence is built through experience, perseverance, and a willingness to keep learning.

As we returned home, we carried with us far more than memories of an enjoyable camp. We returned with a deeper understanding of leadership, a renewed sense of purpose, lasting friendships, and valuable life skills that will continue to guide us in our personal lives, at school, and within our communities. The experience has inspired us to become more active leaders, to serve others with compassion, and to make a positive difference wherever we can.

On behalf of all four of us, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Rotary Club for investing in young people and creating opportunities such as RYLA. Thank you for believing in us and for giving us an experience that has strengthened our confidence and equipped us with lessons that will remain with us for many years to come. We are truly thankful for this unforgettable opportunity and for the impact it has had on us.

PROJECT UPDATES :

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Please help us to support Wave Point Surf project :

Give your old board *a second wave*



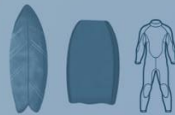
**“Developing future leaders through surf therapy,
education and mentorship”** – Wave Point Foundation

Why it matters

Every Wednesday, children from Sea Vista paddle out to learn how to surf – building confidence, discipline and connection to the ocean. The board gathering dust in your garage could be exactly what gets the next child up and riding.

We're collecting pre-loved:

surfboards
body boards
wetsuits



Drop off points 2 - 31 July



Pam Golding St Francis



Seal Point Estates, CSF



RIVER CLUB
ST FRANCIS BAY

River Club St Francis

Proudly organised by



In collaboration with



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Flash Float funds for Talhado Children's Haven:

Last December's Flash Float event raised an amazing R400 000.00, with 50% of the proceeds going to Talhado Children's Haven in Sea Vista. Accepting the cheque for the proceeds from Rotarian Patsy Roux were headmistress, Chamel Malgas and head teacher, Virginia Brown along with some of the very excited young learners lucky enough to attend this amazing little school. Thank you to everyone who supported this event!!

A big thank you from Mzingisi Primary School in KwaNomzamo, Humansdorp!

On a recent visit to the school, St Francis Rotarians noted the school's playground jungle gym was badly in need of repairs and refurbishment. Arrangements were subsequently made for its restoration, and the pupils can now enjoy a safe, fun environment. School principal, Mr Nikani wrote to thank the Club on behalf of the school's governing body and school staff stating that the kids are excited and having the best time ever!



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SEA VISTA PRIMARY SCHOOL THANKS FOR DAMAGE REPAIRS!

During the recent storm our school suffered some damage to the infrastructure. We are deeply grateful to the Rotary Club of St Francis for their incredible assistance in getting the damage repaired swiftly.

Because of your support, our learners can continue to learn in a safe environment. Thank you for continuing to support our school community!



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SANI PADS AND NAPPIES FOR SCHOOL GIRLS AND DISABLED:

In April, Club President, Lesley de Jager along with Rotarians Lindsay Pearson and Ivan Beaumont delivered Sanitary pads to 7 schools in Humansdorp, as well as in Sea Vista Primary. This also included much needed pull up nappies for the Rainbow School for special needs children in Humansdorp. All the Principals of these schools told us how they need and appreciate these sanitary pads. This is part of our Club's ongoing programme to ensure that young girls, who would not otherwise be able to afford these basic hygiene products, can continue to attend their classes.

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SPORTS FOR YOUTH PROJECT RECEIVES A BOOST

The Sports for Youth project in Sea Vista received a happy boost recently with a large donation of soccer kit from the Rotary Club of St Francis. We supplied them with soccer balls, coaches reflective bibs, netball balls and training cones.

There was much excitement and Matt Davis, his coaches and all the players were so appreciative. Enjoy boys and girls!

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DISASTER RELIEF – ALWAYS A PRIORITY!

The recent heavy rains and flooding affected large numbers of our community. We were proud to be able to support the appeal for donations to help these people. Our Club delivered 50 blankets and 60 kg of nutritious ePap to the St Francis Fire Station for distribution to the needy. We are always ready to give support during disaster events.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS CALLED FOR ACTION :

Our Club heard about the plight of the undocumented foreigners being processed at the Repatriation Centre in Sea Vista. An appeal was launched by the coordinators for funding to hire an additional bus to transport these unfortunate souls to their country of origin. Our Club members voted to contribute R50 000 to alleviate this sad situation and get these people home. We have since heard, with profound relief, that this bus arrived safely at its destination.



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ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS – AVIAN INFLUENZA!



Our Club responded with a R10 000 donation to SANCCOB's notice regarding the high toll of avian influenza on South African seabirds.

The impact of the outbreak of avian influenza on wild seabirds remains significant. Since July 2025, more than 2,600 wild birds have been reported dead, including over 1,300 terns, more than 1,000 gulls, and over 50 African Penguins. The true number is likely much higher. Recently the number of terns affected has been especially concerning. At the start of May 2026 there was some hope as the number of birds affected by HPAI finally appeared to be slowing, but in the last few weeks breeding gulls have been affected in their hundreds.

If you come across a sick or dead bird, please do not touch or move it. Please contact SANCCOB (078 638 3731) or the local managing authorities for guidance. With advice, birds can be handled safely when the correct precautions are followed.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

HOSPICE RECEIVED EXTRA FUNDING FOR MUCH NEEDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES :

A letter from Sister Ingrid Williams was received in thanks for recent assistance.

We want to say thank you so much for your commitment to our Hospice and for your ongoing generosity.

It is a blessing to be in a position where we are able to supply our suffering and poverty-stricken patients with medical supplies, dressings, nappies and the medications they need. Without your kind donation to the pharmacy account for these items, we would just not be able to give the vital assistance that we do. In the same way, your

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payment of our petrol account means that we are able to visit those patients that areas further away such as Patensie, Kareedouw and Thornhill.

Our patients and their families are so grateful for what our sisters do for them. It is a very sad reality that for many of these people, the only medical assistance they receive is that which St Francis Hospice provides. We therefore want to extend a very special thank you and to assure you that we will continue to provide the best care and support we can to those in our community, regardless of race, creed or financial status.

With Kind Regards, From the St Francis Hospice Kouga Team



Ingrid Williams

Manager St Francis Hospice
Kouga

REMEMBERING OUR ELDERLY AT ONS TUISTE AT EASTER

Project Leader Rtn Patsy Roux and some of our St Francis Rotarians and volunteers visited Ons Tuiste Assisted Living Facility in Humansdorp to deliver Easter “goodie” packets filled with much needed toiletries, small gifts and Easter eggs. Each resident received a packet with hugs and sunny smiles to brighten up their Easter weekend.



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Great News for FOSTER!



Friends of St Francis Nature Areas

PBO No 93002 6925 RG/0070/03/08

www.foster.org.za

Congratulations! The Friends of St Francis Nature Areas (FOSTER) has achieved an impressive management effectiveness score of 82.4% in an independent assessment for how it manages the FOSTER reserves in the St Francis area, highlighting nearly three decades of successful community-based conservation management. The assessment evaluated the Irma Booysen Flora Reserve, the Cape St Francis Nature Reserve, the Seal Bay Nature Reserve as well as Seal Point Nature Reserve — using South Africa's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-SA), the nationally adapted version of the world's most widely used protected area management assessment framework.

The Rotary Club of St Francis is a proud donor to FOSTER's efforts to manage our precious environment!

PRIVATE POTHOLE INITIATIVE FOR R330 GETS SUPPORT

The Rotary Club of St Francis was happy to contribute R20 000 to the private pothole repair initiative. A few dedicated St Francis residents are managing a team to fix the exceptionally dangerous sections of the R330 from Humansdorp to St Francis – the only route in and out of St Francis for many daily commuters. Being a Provincial road, unfortunately the local municipality have no authority to conduct such repairs. The Rotary Club of St Francis Club agreed that supporting this initiative was in the best interest of keeping all motorists and commuters safe on that road!

SAFER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS FOR ST FRANCIS

The Rotary Club of St Francis are proud contributors to the construction of the pedestrian walkway along St Francis Drive! Look out for the bricks acknowledging all the donors!

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SEA VISTA CLINIC GETS A MUCH NEEDED FACELIFT

The Rotary Club has been overseeing much needed repairs and painting at the Sea Vista Clinic. This was made possible by a donation from a local Family Foundation. The exterior works are now complete, and painting and repairs of the interior are underway, providing a much improved working environment for the staff and a better experience for their patients.



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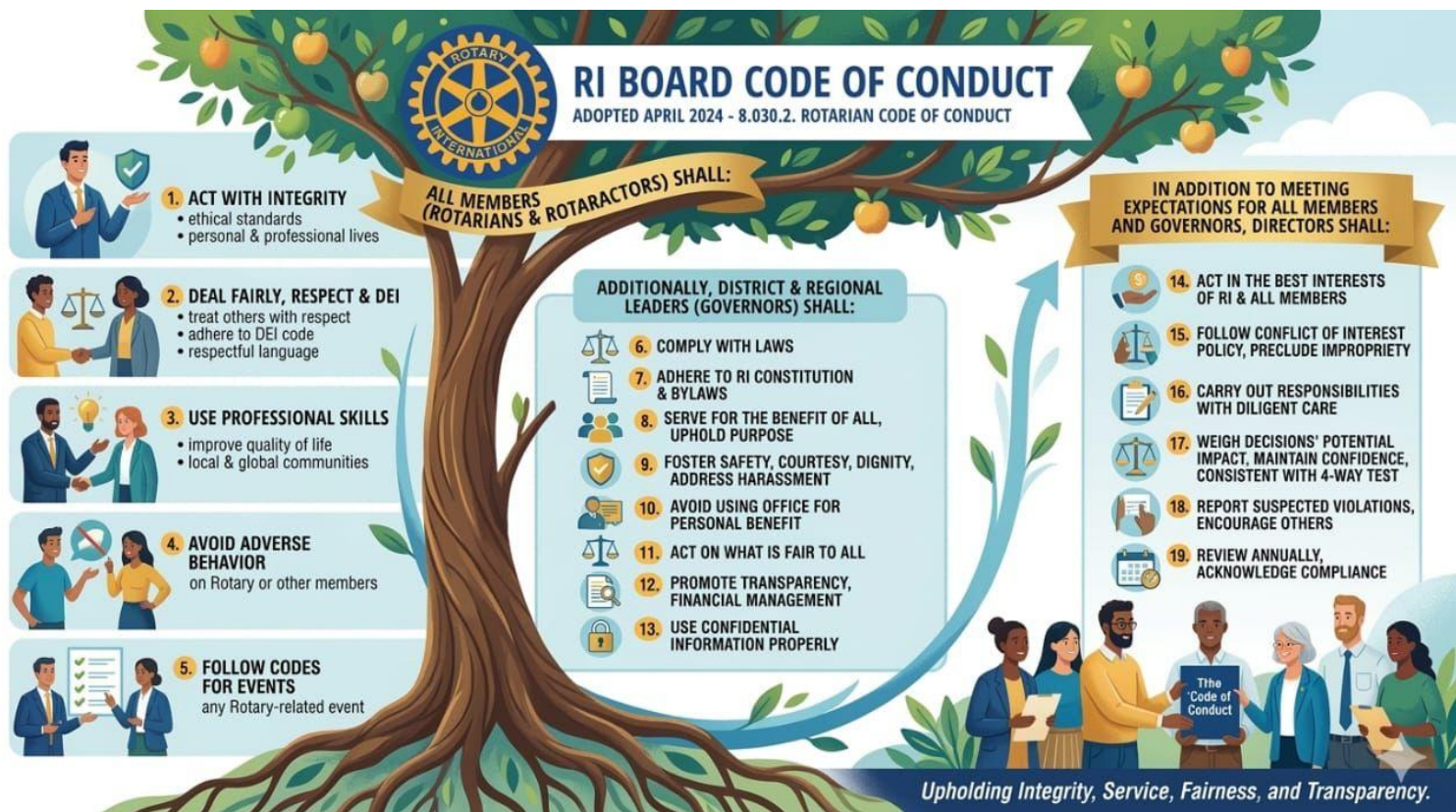
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SAVE THE DATE!

THE AMAZING RACE FOR HOSPICE : SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2026

WINE ON WATER : 12TH & 13TH MARCH 2027



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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!**

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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.

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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 Club's 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 treasurersfbr@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.**

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WWW.ROTARYSTFRANCISBAY.ORG/NEWS**

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.