

President's Year report 2022

President Doulien Knopjes. Pretoria East Rotary Club

To all Dignitaries, Honored guests, Rotarians, and Friends

I am humbly honored to thank all of you. For the last two years I was privileged to be the President of a healthy and growing Rotary Club. I was blessed to work with experienced and energetic members of the Board and active members of the Club. I would like to thank everybody who assisted and supported me, and who worked towards making it a successful year. A word of gratitude goes to every member who each assisted in their own special way. Some projects were attended to in groups through the Projects Committee, and some were just done by individuals in the club. Thank you to every champion of a project who organized events to attend to others in need. With June coming to its end, the Rotary year of 2021/2022 is running out. An impressive amount of money was paid into various projects to assist organizations and families in need. With a group of dedicated members much was achieved. I am humbled to note with how much determination and energy members work convivially together to support the club financially, in space for storage, skills, food, clothing and time. Every effort is highly appreciated.

The first object of Rotary is the opportunity to build friendship while serving your community. At the Rotary Club of Pretoria East many service and fellowship opportunities are created to serve our communities. In the Rotary Club of Pretoria East the different personalities and abilities of the various members blend together towards successful meetings, get-togethers, planning of projects and service to the community.



Through fellowship, working together and extending our skills and energy into our projects all the members of our club made a difference. With the support from the members of the Board, the Directors of Committees, all members of the club as well as our Anns we changed lives. Different members took the responsibility on a weekly basis to arrange knowledgeable speakers, introduced us to themselves in "My Talk" events, or created fun and fines with different ideas as Sergeants and shared enjoyable jokes with us. Working together and enquiring about each member's health and family matters on a weekly basis, keeps the ambiance of fellowship and care alive in the club.

Through various projects managed by the different Champions of the projects we are continuously surprised by the enthusiasm of fellow Rotarians to go the extra mile. There is always energy left to assist with projects, financial planning, reaching out to members of the public and in assisting with admin duties. Though some of our fellowship events were hampered by Covid-19 regulations, we still made the most of every opportunity to meet online or in person. A year filled with blessings, care- and fun.

As a group of dedicated members much was achieved. Even the Covid-19 pandemic could not hold us back. Prevented from attending regular weekly meetings together, our champion for internet meetings, Patrick Kain, ensured that we got closer together during Zoom meetings. Sharing ideas and listening to the wide variety of excellent speakers in our pajamas might be the way to go. The virtual meetings gave us the opportunity to be honored by the attendance of our AG, former members, honorary-members and visitors. Attendance seems to be better when the option of joining in your pajamas with your family nearby exists. We even attended an online president's breakfast meeting. RCPE is an example of a global club. We had members and friends attending from Kenya, KZN, the Eastern-Cape, Eswatini and Lesotho attending. We've shared some fun and quick thinking with an online Quiz, in which our Past President Anastasia Demertzis outwitted the men.

Our projects are still alive and well organized. The wheelchair project is alive and rolling. Wheelchairs were collected from storage and repaired. Additional wheelchairs were donated by members from the Retirement Village to assist where needed.



RCPE has taken hands with members of Bronberg Retirement Village who willingly donated clothes and food to the needy. This project of weekly donations was then combined with the Retirement Village's project for Mandela day. The ladies who were not allowed to visit or be visited by their families started a knitting project. They knitted or crocheted baby clothes, jerseys for toddlers and blocks for blankets. These were distributed by members of our club to Home for the Needy Crèche, Louis Botha Children's Home, Winterveld HIV Scheme, Bronberg Frail Care Centre, New Hope School's Crèche and Abba House for abandoned babies and a family in Hermanstad. Clothing as well as soup and sandwiches, was donated to the Tshwane Leadership Foundation for Potter house and Lerato house for destitute woman and children, and to projects in the Burgerspark area.



Donations, knitted articles and hotdogs were also shared with the Mother and Child Centre in Hermanstad and Tuinrand Primary School.



SOUNDS is a GG recognized literacy project of RCPE to assist to teach toddlers to read and write. The SOUNDS project is still thriving with PP Robin Jones and Edie arranging training sessions on Saturdays. A presentation of the SOUNDS project was shared with the other Rotary Clubs in Pretoria. Presentations of this project to assist Toddlers in reading and writing skills were also presented to various clubs in Sweden to assist with literacy skills to refugees.

Cycle Lab A with assistance of Past President Jan Visagie made a difference in the lives of people by donating 30 blankets to the Home for the Needy to commemorate Mandela Day.

A Rotary Club of Pretoria East Service Award was given to Marba Visagie for her selfless contributions to the community and for her support to PP Robin Jones and Edie Jones on Saturdays with the SOUNDS training sessions.

Our project to assist households run by children who lost their parents due to HIV/Aids is championed by Rotarians Clive Pearson, Nosisi Dlambewu and Patrick Kain. We are ever so thankful for the generous donation by Emily towards the Winterveld project.



Fellowship events were also attended to in our own big way. There were too many events to name e.g., a breakfast, a Christmas lunch, packing of the presents with a Braai, visiting the Botanical gardens, the DG's visit, potjiekos events and a Grande induction meeting at Grant Adam's home. Every member who arranged or attended a fellowship event needs to know that your inputs and attendance is highly appreciated. Getting together, enquiring about each other's health or well-being and the sharing of experiences is the bloodline that keeps enthusiasm flowing.



There was a Strategic planning meeting where everybody got an opportunity to suggest events.



Ideas for a fellowship each month is in the planning. We need people to take up responsibility to arrange these fellowships or come up with more ideas to assist Grant Adam, our Director for Admin.

We were also honored to have had the 87th birthdays of Rotarian Clive Perkins and Ann Aglaea Demertzis this year. Congratulations and may both of you be blessed to still be active members of RCPE for many years to come.

Thank you for all your enthusiasm this year. We are looking forward to the next year, filled with gratitude to our Creator for health and energy and for the opportunity to serve others through Rotary as an organization recognized internationally for its assistance to and care of others.

Congratulations to newly inducted President Patrick Kain. May your year be filled with success, energy and enthusiasm from every member and friends of RCPE.

President Doulien Knopjes

