

Rotary

Club of St Francis



CLUB NEWSLETTER No 32

JULY TO OCTOBER 2026

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

Greetings from St Francis Bay



We recently bade a fond farewell to Past President Lesley de Jager and her husband and Rotarian, Wikus as they have relocated to the Western Cape. Prior to her leaving, Lesley was honoured with a “Heart of the Community” award at a recent Heart of a Woman event at St Francis Links.

Well deserved Lesley! Thank you for all you and Wikus brought to our Club and please take with you all our best wishes for a happy new life in the Western Cape.

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WELCOME TO THE CLUB : DALE HINMAN



Our Club warmly welcomed Dale into the Rotary Club of St Francis in July. He was inducted by President Ivan Beaumont during our Club meeting at St Francis Links. We are all delighted to have you on the team Dale!

PROJECT UPDATES :

Expanding Horizons: A Day of Learning, Discovery and New Possibilities

While soccer and surfing may be the starting point for St Francis Bay Soccer, run by Matt Davies, and the St Francis Bay branch of the Nine Miles Project, co-ordinated by Showney Adams, both organisations take a far more holistic approach to the development of Sea Vista youth.

On Monday 28 September, 20 soccer boys and 11 young surfers, accompanied by coaches and several chaperones, travelled by bus to SANCCOB at Cape Recife in Gqeberha – an outing made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Rotary Club of St Francis Bay, which covered the transport costs.

For the children, it was an opportunity to experience somewhere new while learning about an issue that affects us all: the health of our oceans and environment. Engaging presentations covered everything from plastic pollution, overfishing, oil spills and changes in marine ecosystems, and the devastating impact these are having on African penguin populations. With fewer than 10,000 breeding pairs remaining, the African penguin is critically endangered. The children also visited the rehabilitation facilities and saw penguins that, because of permanent disabilities, are unable to be released back into the wild.

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Importantly, the message was not simply about the problems. The children were encouraged to consider what each of us can do to make a difference, with *reuse, renew and recycle* providing simple, practical ways to take responsibility for the environment.

They also learnt about SANCCOB's volunteers, many of whom develop valuable skills and experience while helping to protect marine wildlife – another reminder of the difference individuals can make when they choose to get involved.

The group also visited Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, where the soccer boys had the opportunity to step inside a professional sporting venue and imagine where their own dedication and hard work could take them one day.

More than a day out

Days like this are about far more than a bus trip or a change of scenery. They broaden horizons, introduce new experiences, build confidence and give young people something to aspire to.

Our hope is to create more opportunities like this – to help children develop valuable life skills while encouraging them to see possibilities beyond what they may currently know.

A huge thank you also to:

Kromme Enviro Trust – for sponsoring the SANCCOB and Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium entrance fees, and for adopting *Lollipop*, an EcoKids penguin currently undergoing rehabilitation.

Village Square Spar – for providing fruit packs, sandwiches and juice for the trip, and for their ongoing commitment to the soccer boys.

Matt Davies and the St Francis Bay Soccer team, and **Showney Adams and the Nine Miles Project** – for your dedication, commitment and enthusiasm in creating opportunities like this for the young people of Sea Vista.

The Rotary Club of St Francis Bay was proud to make the journey possible by sponsoring the transport.

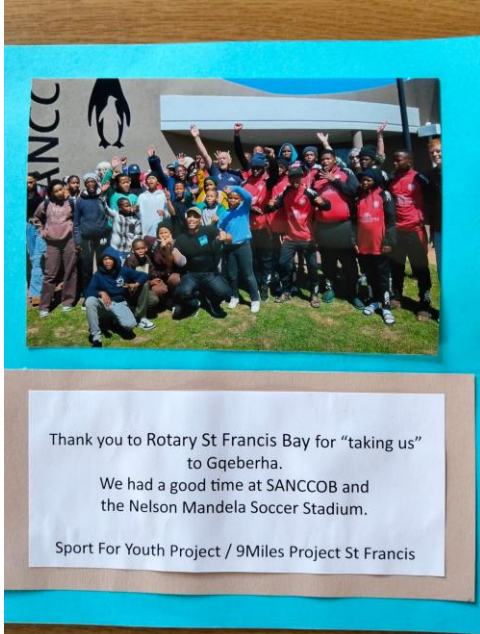
(Sport for Youth, Instagram [sfb_football_project](#))

(Surfing Foundation)



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LUNIKO PLAY PARK RECEIVES AN EXCITING ADDITION!

A new Geodome from KidZplay was delivered and installed at the Luniko Play Park this October. However not even the cold, wet weather on the day it was erected could dampen the excitement amongst the children of Sea Vista. This latest addition to the play park was funded by the Rotary Club of St Francis recognizing the importance of providing safe play spaces in which to learn, grow and just have lots of fun with friends! And President Ivan was there to join in the fun!

Cathryn Hempel, former headmistress of Talhado Children's Haven who championed the opening of Luniko Park (named after a small boy who was run over and killed while playing in the street) wrote to thank us:

Dear Ivan and Members of Rotary St Francis Bay,

On behalf of our entire community, I want to say a heartfelt thank you for your incredibly generous donation to fund the new Geodome climbing frame in the Luniko Play Park.

The new apparatus has already brought so much life and energy to the park. It is wonderful to see our local children safely playing in a designated play area where they are safe from passing traffic. Your support has not only improved our local play area but has also helped create a vibrant space where children can gather together and make lasting memories.

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I am deeply grateful for Rotary's continued dedication to making our community a better place to live, play and grow. Thank you for investing in our children's happiness and well-being.



Rotary Club of St Francis - Supporting More Than Just Tennis

For approximately 20 children from Sea Vista, the opportunity to play tennis twice a week is about far more than learning a sport.

Hosted at the St Francis Tennis Club, the Sea Vista Tennis Club enables children aged 8 to 17 enjoy a safe, structured and positive after-school activity. Under the guidance of dedicated volunteers Stella Plantinga and Ninon Roos, the programme gives children the opportunity to develop sporting skills while building confidence, discipline, teamwork and self-esteem.

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For children who may otherwise have limited access to organised sport, having a regular activity, supportive coaches and the right equipment can make a meaningful difference. It provides something positive to look forward to, a sense of belonging and an opportunity to discover what they can achieve.

Recognising these benefits, Rotary Club of St Francis was pleased to support the programme with tennis rackets, balls and training equipment, together with tennis shoes, T-shirts and caps for the participating children. We are proud to support the volunteers who are investing their time and energy in creating opportunities for these young people — because giving children the chance to participate, learn and grow can have an impact far beyond the tennis court.



Kouga Firefighters Face Toughest Firefighter Alive challenge with Rotary support!

The Rotary Club of St Francis is very proud to have sponsored the transport and uniforms for our local fire fighters' trip to George in early October where they put their strength, endurance and firefighting skills to the test as they competed in the Toughest Firefighter Alive Competition.

They tackled a series of physically and mentally challenging events designed to test the fitness, speed, teamwork and technical skills required in emergency situations.

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Very proud of our team! This is what they had to say when we confirmed our sponsorship:

Dear St. Francis Bay Rotary Club,

On behalf of the Kouga TFA Firefighters, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the St. Francis Bay Rotary Club for your generous sponsorship of our team who competed in the Toughest Firefighter Competition this October 2026 in George.

Your support ensures that our firefighters have the resources and encouragement needed to represent Kouga with pride and determination on a national stage. This prestigious competition brings together firefighters from across the country to test their skills, endurance, and resilience, and your contribution plays a crucial role in making our participation possible.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to our firefighters and your belief in the spirit of service, courage, and excellence that defines our team. Your sponsorship not only empowers our athletes to perform at their best but also strengthens the bond between the Kouga Fire Fighters and the community we proudly serve. Thank you once again for your generosity and support. We look forward to making you proud as we compete and showcase the strength, skill, and dedication of Kouga's finest firefighters.

With sincere gratitude,

MR.M.SODIEN
(EX- OFFICIO)

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AMAZING SUPPORT FOR THE NEW SURF SCHOOL!

A very big thank you to all those big hearted donors who donated their pre-loved surf boards, wet suits and body boards to us for the surf school for Sea Vista children organised by the Wave Point Foundation in collaboration with the 9 Miles Project.

In early October we met the surf school on Main Beach in St Francis Bay and handed over more than 40 surf boards and wet suits for these children. The children range in age from 7 to 16 years, most of whom would not otherwise have had such a wonderful opportunity to learn to surf and enjoy the ocean. The smiles on their faces tell the full story!!

Our heartfelt thanks must go to Pam Golding, Seal Point Estates and the River Club for very kindly agreeing to serve as collection points for these donations.





WARD COUNCILLOR'S PAINT DONATION PUT TO GOOD USE!

The Rotary Club of St Francis would like to give a big vote of thanks to the Ward 12 Councilor Lorraine Maree for including our projects in her annual donation from her Ward Fund for this year.

Our Club received three 20 litre buckets of paint, with brushes and rollers from her fund. These will be used for much needed facelifts at both Disney Creche and Talhado Childrens' Haven in Sea Vista, making the lives of their small learners a little brighter.

So far, we have completed a re-painting of the outside of Disney Creche, after which we entrusted these lovely murals to be painted by Jacob Wahmah from the Sea Vista Community.



KROMME ENVIRO TRUST MARKS WORLD COASTAL CLEAN-UP!

Thank you to our coastal clean-up volunteers!

A huge thank you to everyone who braved the wind and rain to support the Kromme Enviro-Trust Coastal Clean-Up at the end of September.

Despite the weather, our volunteers still managed to collect bags of rubbish, a broken chair and three tyres from our coastline!

Particular thanks go to Rotary for their wonderful support in helping to man the collection stations, and to the surfing group at Granny's Pool, who went all out with their clean-up efforts.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make a difference to our beautiful coastline. Every bag collected counts!

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SEA VISTA CLINIC MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADE PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The Rotary Club have 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 almost complete, providing a much improved working environment for the staff and a more pleasant experience for their patients. A new boundary fence is still to come!



SEA VISTA EYE CLINIC RELOCATED

Our Club facilitated the move of the Eye Clinic from the Sea Vista Clinic to a large spare room in the Sea Vista Library. This is both to provide more space for the Clinic to make use of and to give Optometrist Tony Yoell more space for his weekly clinics and safeguard his equipment. Tony is assisted by Optometrist Margaretha De Bruin in providing an essential service for those less fortunate in need of eye care. This year they identified 9 needy candidates for life changing cataract removal.

These patients received their surgery in Gqeberha in 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!

We had this lovely letter of thanks from one of our last "Gift of Sight" cataract removal patients, Beatrice Booysen :

A Heartfelt Thank You to the Rotary Club

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Rotary Club for sponsoring my eye surgery. This opportunity has truly changed my life, and I cannot thank you enough for the difference you have made.

Since having my operation, my life has become so much easier. I can now see perfectly clearly, and I am incredibly grateful to have my vision restored. It is difficult to put into words how much this means to me.

I would also like to thank Dr Anthony Yoel, Dr Margaretha, the two optometrists, and Dr Schalk du Toit, the ophthalmologist, for their care and professional service throughout this journey.

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From the moment we arrived at Walmer Park in Gqeberha, we were treated with such kindness and respect. The Rotary Club even arranged for us to have something to eat, and the entire experience was wonderful. The care, compassion, and attention we received made us feel truly special. It was genuinely five-star treatment!

To the Rotary Club, thank you for investing in my health and giving me the gift of better vision. Your generosity has made a lasting difference in my life, and I will always be grateful for what you have done for me.

You did not just sponsor an operation; you changed my life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!



Rotary Club of St Francis



SAVE THE DATES

WINE ON WATER is back in 2027.

Join us in beautiful St Francis Bay on **Friday 12th & Saturday 13th March 2027** for another unforgettable weekend on the water.

Tickets go on sale via Quicket from Wednesday 21st October 2026 at 12pm & 7pm.

Hosted by Rotary Club of St Francis; Brought to you by Investec

A promotional poster for the "Wine On Water" event. The background is a scenic view of St Francis Bay with a glass of white wine in the foreground. The text is centered and includes the Rotary Club of St Francis logo, the event name "Wine On Water" with a stylized wave logo, the dates "12 & 13 MARCH 2027", and the ticket sale information: "ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR", "TICKETS GO ON SALE ON Quicket", "21 OCTOBER 2026!", and "For your convenience, tickets will be released in two batches: 12pm | 7pm". The poster also mentions "Brought to you by Investec" and a small disclaimer at the bottom.

Rotary Club of St Francis

Wine On Water[®]
ST FRANCIS BAY
12 & 13 MARCH 2027

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

TICKETS GO ON SALE ON **Quicket**
a ticketmaster company

21 OCTOBER 2026!

For your convenience,
tickets will be released in
two batches:

🕒 **12pm** | 🕒 **7pm**

Brought to you by **Investec**

Brought to you by the Rotary Club of St Francis, and Investec, supporting projects and charities that make a difference in our community.

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THE 6312 AMAZING RACE FOR HOSPICE IS BACK THIS DECEMBER

WIN PRIZES

6312 AMAZING RACE

6 Dec

milk and bread

grab GO

INDULGE BAKERY

Dirk Ellis Volkswagen

8:00 REGISTRATION | 8:30 - 13:00 RACE

13:30 PRIZE GIVING

St Francis Tourism

Rotary Club of St Francis

St Francis market

Calibre SECURITY

GARMED AMBULANCE SERVICE

THE GRAND COMOROS

IN AID OF ST FRANCIS HOSPICE
ENTRIES : HANTI 083 294 2211 / CHRISSIE 083 600 6286

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The Rotary Club of St Francis are hosting the sixth annual 6312 Amazing Race on December 6, 2026 and are thrilled to welcome back Dirk Ellis Volkswagen and Bread and Milk as this year's event sponsors. All proceeds from this family fun event go to St Francis Hospice, in the Kouga region.

Although the focus of this event is raising much needed funding for St Francis Hospice, it is also a fun and adventurous way to showcase the beauty of Cape St Francis and St Francis Bay, with participants travelling to various parts of the two towns.

“There will be lots of great prizes for the winners, best dressed team and best dressed car, and many more.

A big vote of thanks must go to Dirk Ellis Volkswagen and Bread and Milk, our event sponsors, as well as to all the local companies that will sponsor the checkpoints.

Vehicle registration costs R350, accommodating up to four participants. Additional participants incur a R50 fee. The Amazing Race will finish at 13:00 at St Francis Brewery, where the prize-giving ceremony will start at 13h30. Entry numbers are limited, so get your entries in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For more information and entry forms contact Chrissie at chrissie@localrealestate.co.za / 083 600 6286, or Hantie at info@stfrancismarket.co.za / 083 294 2211. Or find our stall at St Francis Market on the last Saturday of each month.

Rotary Club of St Francis



SAVE THE DATE: The St Francis Flash Float has been confirmed! 🌸

It's official - the best event of the holiday season is back! Get ready to inflate those flamingoes, round up your float squad and drift into peak summer vibes. ☀️

📅 27 December 2026

🕒 13:30 Sharp

🎫 Tickets: Dropping early December!

Mark your calendars and keep your eyes peeled so you don't miss out when tickets drop!



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WORLD POLIO DAY – 24TH OCTOBER

And finally, as we approach International World Polio Day we thought it fit to remind everyone why this is so important.

From 350,000 cases a year to just 12 – Rotary’s fight to End Polio Now is one of the greatest public health stories ever told. 

If you've ever wondered how a global network of volunteers can change the world, here's the incredible history and impact of our flagship initiative.

THE HISTORY: How It All Began

It started with a single project. In 1979, Rotary launched its first major immunization effort in the Philippines, aiming to vaccinate 6 million children against polio. The success fueled an audacious vision.

In 1985, Rotary launched PolioPlus – the first globally coordinated private-sector effort to immunize every child in the world. At that time, polio was paralysing an estimated 350,000 children every year across 125 countries.

In 1988, Rotary spearheaded the creation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) alongside WHO, UNICEF, and the CDC – the largest public health initiative in history.

Key milestones:

- 1994: Americas declared polio-free
- 2000: Western Pacific declared polio-free
- 2006 Egypt declared polio-free
- 2012: India removed from endemic list
- 2020: Africa declared wild polio-free

THE ACHIEVEMENTS

The numbers represent real children's lives:

- 99.9% reduction in cases since 1985

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- Over 2.5 BILLION children vaccinated
- Over US\$2 billion contributed by Rotary
- US\$7+ billion leveraged from governments via Rotary's advocacy
- 20 million+ cases of paralysis prevented and 1.5 million lives saved

Thousands of Rotarians have volunteered for National Immunization Days worldwide.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provides a 2-to-1 match – our US\$50M/year becomes US\$450M of impact.

THE "PLUS" IN POLIOPLUS

The infrastructure we've built – labs, trained workers, trusted leaders – now delivers vitamin A, bed nets, clean water, and other health services to vulnerable communities.

THE FINAL STRETCH

Wild polio is endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We are this close – but the job isn't finished. As long as polio exists anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk.



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AUGUST IS
MEMBERSHIP &
NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT
MONTH

Rotary 
Estoi Palace International

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

The Four-Way Test is a simple guide that helps us make better decisions and build trust in our relationships and communities.

Created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932.
Adopted by Rotary in 1943.
More than 80 years later, it still guides Rotarians worldwide.



- **1 Is it the TRUTH?**
We are honest and transparent.
- **2 Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
We treat everyone with fairness and respect.
- **3 Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
We strengthen the bonds that unite us.
- **4 Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**
We create positive, lasting impact.



Together, we create *lasting impact.*

 An international club in the heart of the Algarve.

 **Rotary Estoi Palace International**
An international club in the heart of the Algarve.

 rotarystcpalace.org

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OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST:

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND:

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD:

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH:

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

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.

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