



14
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ROTA VIEWS
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The Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
October is ...Economic & Community Development Month

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WORLD POLIO DAY – Rotary’s story.... A message to all Rotarians from District Polio Chair - Janie Ball

Thank you for being one of more than 1,000 Rotarians in Angola, Namibia and Western South Africa who are **People of Action**. Thank you for *Serving to Change Lives* & for **Doing Good in the World**. Thank you for bringing us **This Close** to achieving Rotary’s No 1 Philanthropic Goal: The **Eradication of Polio worldwide**. Through the efforts of Rotary, and its Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, there have been only two cases of Wild Polio virus in the world this year; where Polio remains endemic, namely Afghanistan and Pakistan.

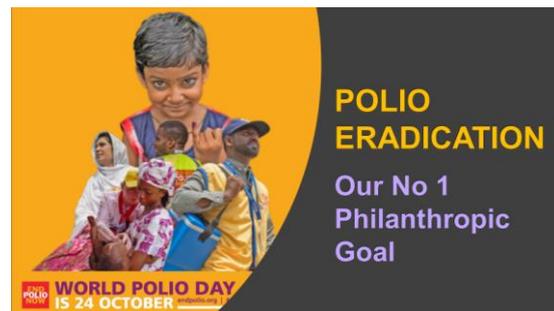
REFLECTING ON HISTORY - With the uncertainty surrounding the Corona virus pandemic still front of mind, this [World Polio Day](#) is perhaps an occasion upon which to reflect on the fear that gripped the world during the Polio epidemic of the early years of the 20th century. Carl Kurlander, writing online on the importance of vaccines, describes the outbreaks: “..... *The Polio virus arrived each summer, striking without warning. No one knew how Polio was transmitted or what caused it. There were wild theories that the virus spread from imported bananas or stray cats. There was no known cure or vaccine. For the next four decades, swimming pools and movie theatres closed during Polio season for fear of this invisible enemy. Parents stopped sending their children to playgrounds or birthday parties for fear they would “catch Polio.” In the outbreak of 1916, health workers in New York City would physically remove children from their homes or playgrounds if they suspected they might be infected. Kids, who seemed to be targeted by the disease, were taken from their families and isolated in sanatoriums.*”

Years of research along with the determined efforts of Jonas Salk and, later, Albert Sabin, brought forth the vaccines that were to decrease Polio paralysis cases in the USA from 15,000 in the 1950’s to just 10 in the 1970’s.

Then, in 1985, Rotary International launched PolioPlus, the first and largest internationally coordinated private sector support of a public health initiative and, in 1988, with Polio still paralyzing more than 1,000 children worldwide, per day, Rotary’s work was the catalyst for the formation of the GPEI. At this point, there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125

countries every year. **Today, we have reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent!** Clearly the vaccines work. More than this, the infrastructure we helped build to end Polio is also being used to treat and prevent other diseases (including COVID-19) and to create lasting impact in other areas of public health.

We need to get this job done, and soon! Certainly, our goodwill goes some distance, but we also need the funding that will ensure eradication and will ensure that every child in the world is immunised. In order to encourage contributions from our clubs and the members of our Rotary family, **District 9350 will soon be launching a PolioPlus Society**. Please keep an eye on your inbox for ways that you can contribute so that soon very soon - we will accomplish our No 1 philanthropic goal. Please also help to deepen the understanding of the importance of our goal and share [the videos below](#) within your club and on social networks.



ONLINE VIEWING

[The Final Inch](#) (2018) [39 mins] Oscar nominated Short Documentary

Fifty years after the development of the polio vaccine in the United States, the potentially crippling polio virus still finds refuge in some of the world's most vulnerable places, poised to re-emerge and re-infect regions where it was stamped out decades ago. The first line of defence against such a nightmarish occurrence is a vast army of health workers who go door-to-door in some of India's poorest neighbourhoods, ensuring every child is vaccinated. Their mission: to eradicate polio from the planet forever.

[The Endgame](#) (2018) [30 mins] A 30-minute documentary about the quest to vaccinate the world and finally eradicate the devastating disease, polio. Released in 2018, the Endgame has attracted a new audience since the Covid-19 pandemic changed everything. Since the first polio vaccine was given in 1956, the fight to eliminate the virus has become the largest peacetime mobilisation in human history. The Polio Eradication & Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018 was a comprehensive, long-term strategy designed to deliver a polio-free world by 2018. It almost succeeded, with only 33 new cases reported in 2018. This film follows a chain of seven people as each seeks to answer their own pressing questions about the virus, how it affects us, and how to make it extinct.

[The Shot Felt Around the World](#) (2013, Educational Version) [32 mins] *Thanks to Steeltown for allowing use by Rotary 9350*
The story of the disease that filled families with terror each summer. They no longer went to pools nor movie theatres for fear of the potentially fatal disease that often crippled its victims. Then a polio-afflicted U S President inspired the country's men, women, and children to send their dimes to fund research - some of which would go to an ambitious, but unknown 33-year-old physician, Dr Jonas Salk, and his team at the University of Pittsburgh. They would change the course of medical history.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Best Chance to Eradicate Polio is Now - Aidan O'Leary.

Although O'Leary, the Polio eradication director for the World Health Organization, is speaking from his home in Galway, against the verdant backdrop of western Ireland, his focus is on war-torn Afghanistan and the parched and dusty plains of Pakistan — the last two places on the planet where Wild Polio still thrives. Even

during a pandemic, even as grim realities confront him, O'Leary conveys a sense of optimism about the possibility of finally eradicating Polio. "Particularly in the days of COVID-19, there is something that really resonates about snuffing out a highly communicable infectious disease," he says. "As COVID has taken off, it has also led a lot of people to better understand why now the time is to finish this job with Polio." Yet O'Leary's optimism is shaded with a sense of urgency and pragmatism.

"There is absolutely no case for complacency here," he says. "What is really important is that we double down on reaching the persistently missed children who are a top priority for our program." O'Leary, who began his tenure as WHO's polio chief in January, came into the job knowing the terrain well. He formerly led UNICEF's Polio eradication efforts in Pakistan and was the head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, organizing the UN's emergency response during crises.

O'Leary says he understands the difference Rotary can make — in a community and in the global fight against Polio. In Galway, a local tradition involves kicking the limestone wall at the end of a 2-mile stroll on the Salthill Promenade along Galway Bay (*the reason for doing so has been lost in the mists of time*).

In 2012, O'Leary explains, the Rotary Club of Galway-Salthill installed a box on the wall that bears the slogan "**Small Change, Big Impact**" and encourages walkers to leave a small donation, with all money collected, going to local charities and institutions.

In July, weeks before the dramatic turn of events in Afghanistan, O'Leary joined Rotary magazine senior staff writer Diana Schoberg and Dave King, editor of Rotary magazine for Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, on a Zoom call to discuss the new strategy of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and the new Polio vaccine, and how they will be used to eradicate Polio — once and for all. What is the latest update on wild poliovirus?

The numbers are extremely encouraging. We've gone over a very bumpy road during the last two years. We had a fivefold increase in cases between 2018 and 2019, when we saw 176 cases, and we had 140 cases in 2020. But we've recorded just two cases this year [as of 27 July] — one each in Afghanistan and Pakistan. [Both cases were in January.] We have been unable to detect any Wild Poliovirus in Afghanistan since 23 February, and we've seen just five isolates in Pakistan since 12 April.

In places like Karachi, Pakistan, Aidan O'Leary says, the most successful "frontline vaccinator is a local woman who is well-trained and motivated." Khaula Jamil/Courtesy of Rotary International



CLUB NEWS

Marathon mania - Cape Town Marathon – Sunday 17 October

Marshalling is something we do every year. Some members enjoy it more than others, but all agree that @SusanO'Hagan Ward is the best organizer ever!! We were on the cold and wet streets at 5.15 am last Sunday to ensure the success of Cape Town's premier marathon that ran like clockwork.

Sincere thanks to Maughreen (see picture below) and Rob, Gillian and son Douglas, Marge, Peter, Alan, Barbara and son Nick Murphy and Bev for their labours of love 😊

Like the old Squad Cars on SABC ...“ We prowled the empty streets – at DAWN ... on foot, in fast cars – ready for action ... Marshals of the RC Cape of Good Hope and , like the cops ... WAITING...!!!



Our Gardening Queen – Rotarian and PHF Jean Smythe

Jean Smythe, the gardening Queen of Fish Hoek has done it again!!! She & her band of helpers transformed the **Sunny Cove railway station** gardens. She is talking to PRASA to get permission to erect a sign there. In the meantime at least WE know Thank you Jean and your band of helpers, the gardens are BEAUTIFUL !!!



DISTRICT NEWS

Negativity is contagious. Unhappiness is contagious.
Fear is contagious, but so is happiness, so is optimism, so is love.
Surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you and
strive to be a reflection of what you want to receive.

Michelle C Clarke -Third Eye Thoughts



Club Meeting & Speaker October - December 2021

Speaker	Tuesday 26 Oct	Zoom	Presentation on the Proposed Skateboard Park	
	Tuesday 2 Nov	Zoom	TBC	
BOARD	Monday 8 Nov	Zoom	Board Meeting	
BUSINESS	Tuesday 9 Nov	Zoom	Business Meeting	
Speaker	Tuesday 16 Nov	Zoom	Dr Lombard on Falconry	7pm
	Wednesday 17 Nov	Zoom	D9350 President's Forum	5pm
RAID - SPEAKER	Tuesday 23 Nov	Zoom	RAID to CONSTANTIA RC – Dr Estie Meyer ENT Surgeon @ Groote Schuur on Covid	
SPEAKER	Tuesday 30 Nov	Zoom	RAID by x3 Clubs: Hout Bay, Wynberg, Constantia Monique Strydom – Her Island Hostage story	7pm
BOARD	Monday 6 December		Board Meeting	
BUSINESS	Tuesday 7 Dec		AGM Business Meeting	
FELLOWSHIP	Tuesday 14 Dec	In person	Face -to Face Year end function Details to follow – LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR	TBC

CLUB MEETING - DUTY ROSTER

	Tuesday 26 October	Tuesday 2 November
WELCOME	President Gillian Anderson	President Gillian Anderson
TOAST to RI & an Overseas Club	Christine Mueller	Susan O'Hagan Ward
LOYAL TOAST to South AFRICA	Irene Butterworth	Alan Ferguson
TOAST to Frontline Workers	Alan Ferguson	Peter Gray
SECRETARIAL & AG NOTICES	Bev Frieslich	Bev Frieslich
Introduce Speaker	Hans Zwets	
SPEAKER & TOPIC	Skateboard Park Proposal	
THANK SPEAKER	Terry Spreeth	
SERGEANT/ ROTARY FOUNDATION GIVING	Jane White	Hans Zwets
FOUR WAY TEST	Susan O'Hagan Ward	Jean Smythe