Rotary
Club of Waterfront

2025
ANNUAL REPORT
(JUL ’24 - JUN ’25)

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

“Dive Into Change”

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNERS

STRATEGIC



- The V&A Waterfront (Pty) Ltd
- City of Cape Town
- Wenhold Family Trust
- District 9350 Governor & Leadership Team
- RNET, The Mittags
- Rotary Club of Alturas Sunrise (USA)
- Rotary Club of Saint Catharines (Canadá)
- White Lodge (Anne & Frederik van den Bergh)

NEW PARTNERS

- Ladles of Love
- Soroptimist International Cape of Good Hope

WCC 2025 PARTNERS

- The V&A Waterfront (Pty) Ltd
- City of Cape Town
- Adinga
- Innovocean
- Mayekawa
- Chris Fick & Associates

COMMERCIAL

- Cape Town Marathon
- Cape Town Cycle Tour
- Wings for Life

IN GRATITUDE TO OUR BENEFICIARIES

- Christine Revell Children's Home
- Salesian Institute Youth Projects
- UCT Debating Society and the Debating Schools of 2025
- Roxy Foundation
- Trafalgar High School
- Cape Town Multi-purpose Service Centre (CTMSC)
- Siyakhanyisa Educare Centre
- Neighbourhood Old-Age Homes (NOAH)
- Hope Exchange



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The 2025 Rotary year was guided by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick's inspiring theme, "The Magic of Rotary", and anchored in the MAGIC Framework: **Membership, Amplify Impact, Growing Leaders, Innovation, and Camaraderie.** These principles shaped every decision we made and every project we delivered, all within the governance standards of Rotary International and the South African NPO regulatory framework.

This year, our Club remained steadfast in advancing four strategic priorities: **strengthening membership, deepening partnerships, elevating our public image, and delivering sustainable, measurable community impact.**

A Year of Meaningful Progress
Across all focus areas, we achieved strong momentum. Member engagement deepened, our project portfolio broadened, and our partnerships matured. We continued to embrace digital innovation, broadened fellowship opportunities, and remained committed to excellence in governance and stewardship.

Key highlights from the year include:

- **Membership and Engagement:** Retention and meaningful engagement—particularly for remote and hybrid members—remained core priorities. Through expanded fellowship, accessible activities, and improved communication, we strengthened the sense of belonging and community across the Club.
- **Public Image and Storytelling:** Our digital storytelling efforts significantly raised our visibility, enabling us to showcase our impact more effectively and attract new supporters and partners.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Despite ongoing fundraising challenges, disciplined financial management ensured that our programmes remained sustainable and aligned with Rotary's high standards of accountability.
- **Impactful Community Programmes:** By aligning projects with our strategic objectives, we delivered deeper, more sustainable impact while building enduring relationships with beneficiaries and partner organisations.
- **Fellowship and Club Culture:** A more diverse fellowship calendar created opportunities for broader participation, enhancing club morale and strengthening the bonds that make Rotary a place of friendship, service, and shared purpose.

Our Club continues to strengthen its reputation as an inclusive, innovative, and high-performing Rotary Club dedicated to creating lasting change. The awards and recognition received this year are a testament to the passion, commitment, and creativity of our members.

A Message of Appreciation
We extend our deepest appreciation to our partners and supporters — including the **City of Cape Town, V&A Waterfront, The Wenhold Trust, Adinga**, our many sponsors, and each of our beneficiary partners. Your generosity and collaboration empower us to serve more communities, more effectively, and with greater purpose.

Looking Ahead
As we look to the future, our commitment remains unwavering: to **retain and empower members**, to **grow and deepen partnerships**, and to **deliver transformative and sustainable impact.** Together, we will continue to ensure that the magic of Rotary shines brightly in every life we touch.

We thank you for your support and hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report.

UNITY

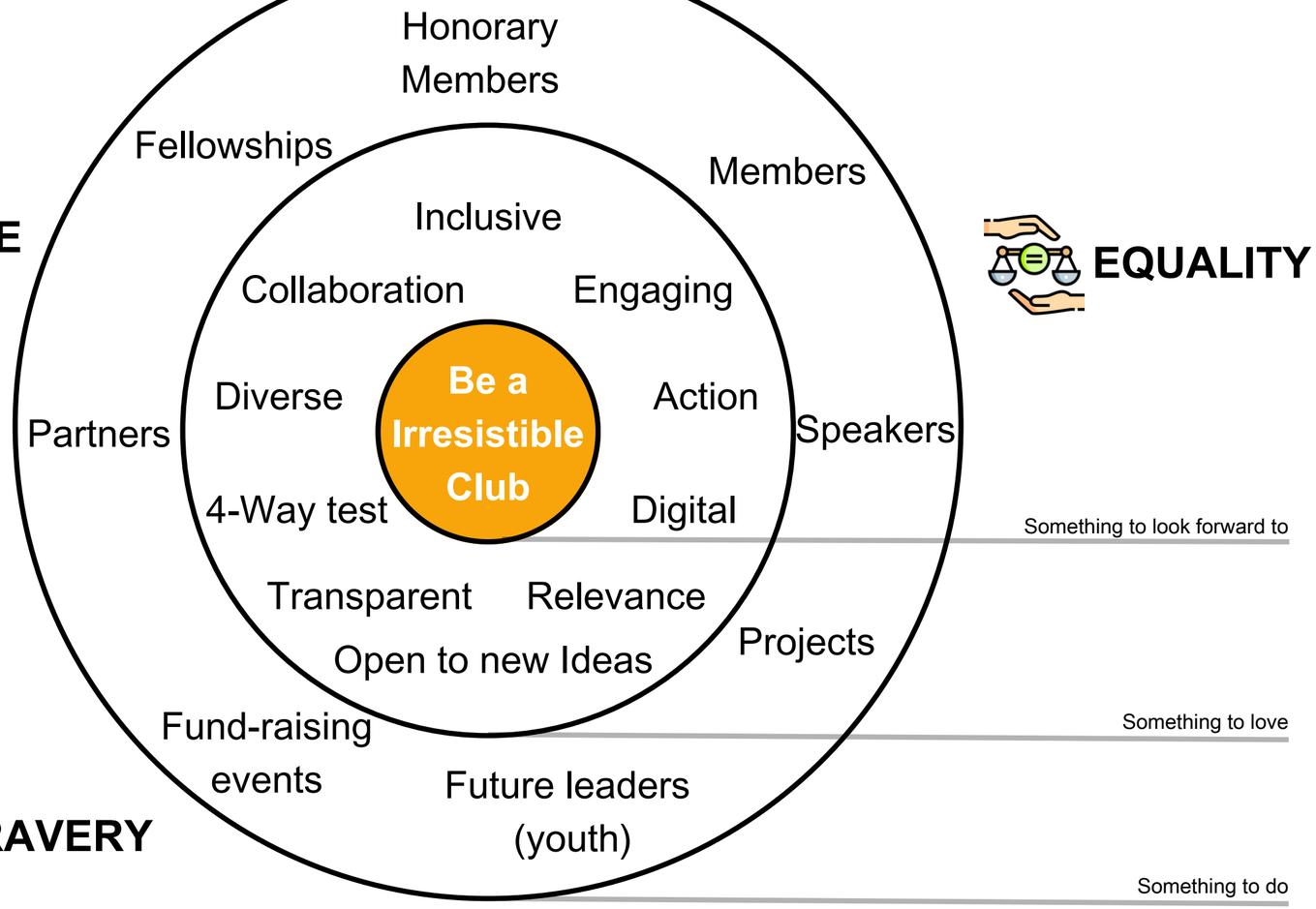
TRANSFORMATION

HOPE

EQUALITY

BRAVERY

PEACE



OUR COLLABORATION FOR IMPACT





RESULTS OF THE YEAR 2024/25

MEMBERSHIP

At the heart of the Rotary Club of Waterfront lies its members. Under the leadership of Membership Director June Webber, the year was defined by intentional growth, deeper engagement, and a renewed focus on building a strong, diverse, and active club culture. Our priority was not only to welcome new members but also to nurture and retain the committed Rotarians who continue to drive our service impact.

Throughout the year, we created meaningful opportunities for members—new and longstanding—to connect, contribute, and experience the true spirit of Rotary fellowship and service.







Key Achievements

- **Celebrating Excellence Through Paul Harris Fellowships**

We proudly honoured David Green, CEO of the V&A Waterfront, with a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of his exceptional leadership in positioning the V&A Waterfront as an iconic global destination and strengthening Cape Town's reputation as a world-leading tourism hub in 2025.

- **Strengthening Our Professional Diversity**

By onboarding new members with a range of professional expertise, we broadened our knowledge base and reinforced our capacity to design and deliver impactful projects.

- **Enhancing Member Satisfaction and Retention**

Members—whether attending in person, joining remotely, or residing abroad—remained engaged through meaningful service opportunities and high-impact initiatives that reaffirmed the value of staying connected to the club.

- **Launching Thirsty Thursday Fellowship Events**

This new social platform has enriched our club culture by creating relaxed, informal spaces for members to build relationships outside our breakfast meetings. It has also strengthened collaboration with neighbouring Rotary clubs, enhancing visibility and cross-club engagement

DELIVERING MEANINGFUL AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY IMPACT

In advancing our third strategic objective, the Rotary Club of Waterfront amplified its commitment to creating meaningful and sustainable impact across health, education, governance, and environmental stewardship. Working in close partnership with long-standing beneficiary organisations—including Christine Revell Children's Home (CRCH), Salesians Institute Youth Projects (SIYP), and the Rural Namaqualand Education Trust (RNET)—we ensured that our community interventions remained relevant, responsive, and firmly aligned with Rotary International's Areas of Focus.

In April 2025, we proudly launched the Peace Garden as part of the 2nd ICC Africa Peace Forum in Cape Town. The initiative was led by Rotary District 9350 under the guidance of PDG Ann Wright and our Community Service Director, Piet Postema, reinforcing Rotary's global mission to advance peacebuilding through dialogue, inclusivity, and community-led action.

All projects were delivered in full compliance with Rotary International's governance and safeguarding protocols. Safeguarding principles guided all interactions with children and youth at CRCH, SIYP, and during Interact programmes, ensuring that our service work upheld the highest standards of care, dignity, and protection.

Key Achievements

1. Supporting the SIYP Education 4.0 Transformation

We continued to advance SIYP's Education 4.0 strategy by:

- Strengthening youth employability pathways through the Stitch Ahead programme
- Enhancing SIYP's digital learning environment, improving access to technology across the Learn to Live School of Skills and NEETs programmes.

These interventions are equipping youth with the digital, entrepreneurial, and vocational skills required for the modern economy.

























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2. Strengthening Sustainability at Christine Revell Children's Home
To support CRCH in reducing operational pressures and promoting self-sufficiency, we implemented a borehole systemand food garden, ensuring reliable water access and enhanced food security. These sustainable solutions are already lowering running costs and supporting the overall wellbeing of the children in residence.

3. Advancing Literacy Through Our Global Grant
Under the leadership of Janet Kriseman, the Literacy Committee completed the final phase of our multi-year Global Grant. This initiative has positively impacted over 1,000 learners in primary schools across Cape Town's most vulnerable communities—significantly strengthening foundational literacy and supporting long-term educational outcomes.

4. Expanding Educational Access in Rural Communities
Through our partnership with RNET, we extended our reach into rural Kamieskroon in the Northern Cape, ensuring continued academic support for learners who face significant geographic and socioeconomic barriers.

5. Investing in Future Leaders
Our youth development efforts focused on leadership, confidence, and civic engagement. Key initiatives included:

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION



In advancing our commitment to youth and women empowerment and economic development, the Entrepreneurship & Innovation portfolio continued to play a catalytic role in unlocking employability opportunities within our local communities. Our focus remained centred on strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, enhancing young professionals' readiness for work, and fostering the confidence needed to participate meaningfully in the economy.

Throughout the year, we worked closely with community partners, educational institutions, and private-sector collaborators to deliver targeted interventions that support aspiring entrepreneurs and prepare young people for the world of work.

Key Achievements

- **Entrepreneur Mentorship Programme (V&A Waterfront Partnership)**

In collaboration with the V&A Waterfront, we mentored a cohort of emerging entrepreneurs, supporting them with assessments, personalised guidance, and onboarding into opportunities that enhance business growth and sustainability.



- **Career Readiness Interventions at Salesians Institute Youth Projects**

We delivered a series of practical, high-impact sessions designed to build confidence and essential workplace skills among youth. These included:

  - Entrepreneurship Journeys: Inspiring conversations and real-world insights to help young people explore pathways to self-employment.
  - Dress for Success Workshops: Coaching on professional presentation, grooming, and interview readiness.

- **Salesians Pop-Up Competition – Adjudication & Awards**

Our members served as adjudicators in the annual Salesians Pop-Up Market competition, recognising and rewarding top entrepreneurial talent while encouraging innovation and business acumen among students.



Through campaigns such as the Toiletry Donation Drive, we helped boost the self-esteem and professional readiness of students preparing for job interviews—reinforcing the importance of dignity as a building block of employability.





ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

IIn today's world, sustainability cannot be addressed without recognising the interdependence between people and the planet. Despite the absence of a dedicated Environment Champion this year, our Club remained steadfast in advancing environmentally sustainable practices and initiatives.

Our partnerships with the Sugarbird Trust and Christine Revell Children's Home formed the backbone of our environmental impact efforts, allowing us to promote ecological awareness, improve sustainability practices, and contribute to community resilience.

Key Achievements

- **Cape Floral Kingdom Global Grant:** Successfully delivered this flagship environmental project, enhancing biodiversity awareness and strengthening environmental education within local communities. Activities under this grant deepened appreciation for the ecological significance of the Cape Floral Kingdom and empowered participants with practical conservation knowledge.

- **Sustainable Food Systems at CRCH:** Supported sustainable food production through the CRCH Food Garden and the borehole system. These initiatives continue to improve food security, reduce operational costs, and provide environmental learning opportunities for the children.

WATERFRONT CANAL CHALLENGE

This year's theme, **"Dive in for Change,"** positioned the **Waterfront Canal Challenge 2025**—Africa's only urban-timed canal swim—as far more than a race. It became a powerful platform to showcase the impact of collaboration and the potential of sport as a catalyst for social change. The event embodies Rotary's commitment to peacebuilding and community upliftment, resonating with the spirit of the **UN's International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**.

Supported by the **V&A Waterfront** and the **City of Cape Town**, and strengthened through civic, corporate, and media partnerships, the Canal Challenge significantly enhanced community engagement while amplifying our club's visibility and influence.

As our flagship camaraderie-driven fundraiser, the event fuels socio-economic initiatives, supports **NEET youth** (those not in education, employment, or training), and empowers local entrepreneurs—all under the guiding principles of **diversity, inclusivity, and equity**.

Through the combination of strategic partnerships, high public visibility, and measurable social impact, the Canal Challenge exemplifies **innovation, purpose, and community spirit**, demonstrating the extraordinary achievements Rotary can accomplish when we unite for lasting, meaningful change











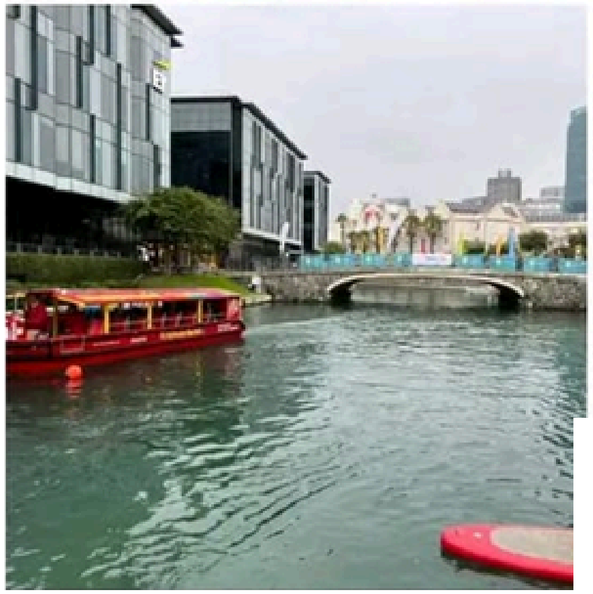








WATERFRONT CANAL CHALLENGE

















PUBLIC IMAGE & COMMUNICATION

Recognising the rapidly changing world we live in, our Club remained committed to being inclusive, proactive, and innovative. This year, we placed particular emphasis on amplifying our storytelling, elevating our visibility, and strengthening awareness of the meaningful work we deliver in our community.



Our Public Image strategy remained fully aligned with Rotary International's global branding standards and with South Africa's digital communications regulations. We ensured a consistent visual identity and strategic messaging across all platforms. The weekly circulation of Seal's Bark became a cornerstone communication tool, serving both as an internal change management mechanism and as an external showcase of our impact. Its regular publication kept members, partners, and supporters informed, engaged, and connected to the heart of our service.

Across LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and X, our project updates, member highlights, and community stories significantly increased engagement and helped strengthen the Club's digital footprint. These efforts reflected our commitment to responsible, strategic, and values-driven communication in line with Rotary's Public Image and Brand guidelines.







Key Achievements

- **Expanded public engagement and awareness** of our Club's work through the weekly publication of Seal's Bark, which became instrumental in strengthening internal communication, deepening partner engagement, and elevating our presence across major social media platforms.

- **Achieved Peacebuilder Club Status**, underscoring our commitment to peace and conflict prevention. This recognition followed member training and active involvement with the Rotary Action Group for Peace.

- **Enhanced our reputation as an active and innovative club within District 9350**, through consistent participation in and support for the District's ACT4Impact campaign, reinforcing our alignment with district priorities and amplifying our collective reach.





WATERFRONT ROTARACTORS - STRENGTHENING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

During the 2025 Rotary year, the Rotary Club of Waterfront strengthened its commitment to emerging leadership by deepening collaboration with the Rotaract Club. This partnership focused on mentorship, capacity-building, and leadership development, ensuring the next generation of community leaders is well-equipped to make a meaningful impact.

Our support included mentoring and coaching the Rotaract executive leadership, offering guidance in governance, strategic planning, and project management. We also co-sponsored their participation in the African Summit in Uganda, providing valuable exposure to continental networks and leadership insights.

A key milestone in this collaboration was the Communication Skills Workshop, held at the Cape Town Library on a Saturday. The workshop was well attended and offered Rotaractors practical tools to strengthen public speaking, active listening, and interpersonal communication—essential skills for effective leadership and community engagement.

Through this partnership, the Rotary Club of Waterfront has enhanced the Rotaract Club's capacity, amplified its impact, and reinforced Rotary's vision of fostering professional "doers" who lead by example. This collaboration exemplifies our commitment to empowering young leaders and ensuring sustainable community impact, with public speaking training as a cornerstone for building workplace confidence and leadership excellence.



Waterfront Rotaract

GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Rotary Club of Waterfront is committed to operational excellence, financial sustainability, and robust governance—foundations that directly enhance member satisfaction and retention.

This year, the Club strengthened its governance framework by updating its bylaws in alignment with Rotary International's 2022–2025 MOP cycle, ensuring timely financial submissions and upholding transparent reporting. Our financial statements comply fully with South African legislative requirements and reflect the Rotary Foundation's principles of financial stewardship.

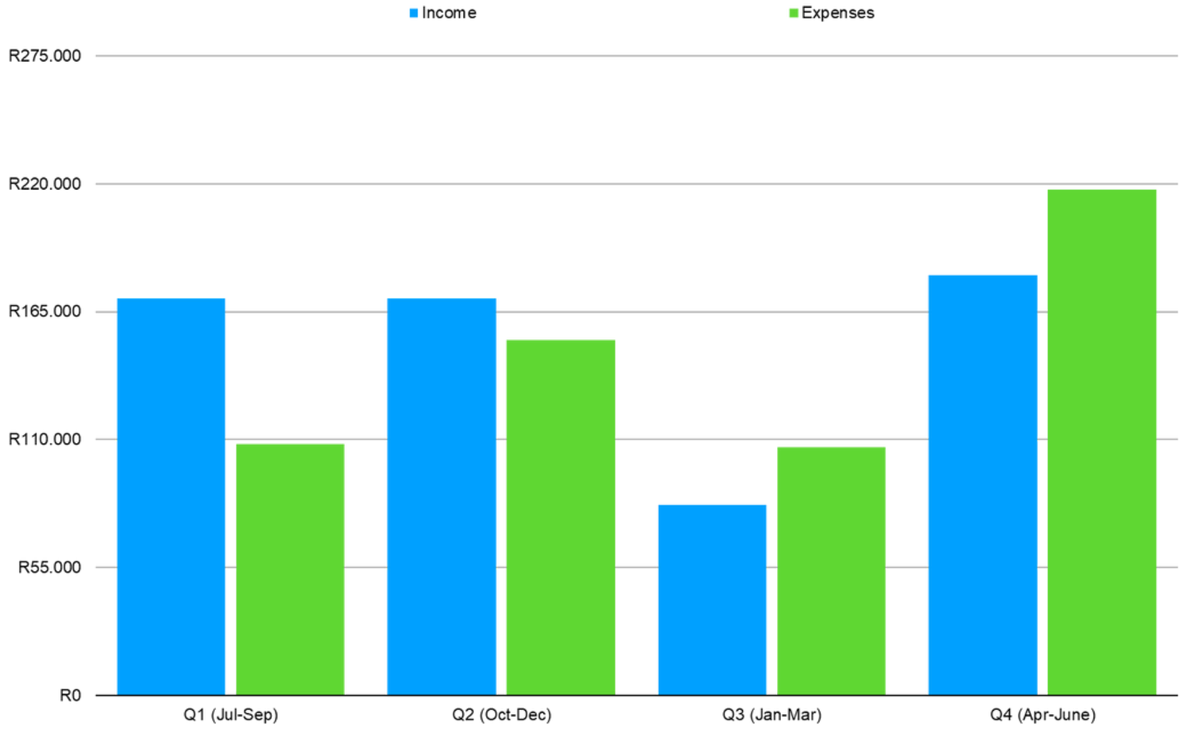
Key Achievements:

- **Governance Excellence**: Updated Club Bylaws to enhance compliance and governance maturity.
- **Financial Discipline:** Maintained full financial compliance, including audits and timely contributions to Rotary entities, supporting long-term financial sustainability.
- **Revenue Growth:** Increased income through successful fundraising initiatives, including the Cape Town Marathon, Cape Town Cycle Tour, our flagship Waterfront Canal Challenge, and Wings For Life.
- **Strong Leadership & Teamwork:** Achieved zero disputes, reflecting transparency, effective leadership, and collaborative teamwork.

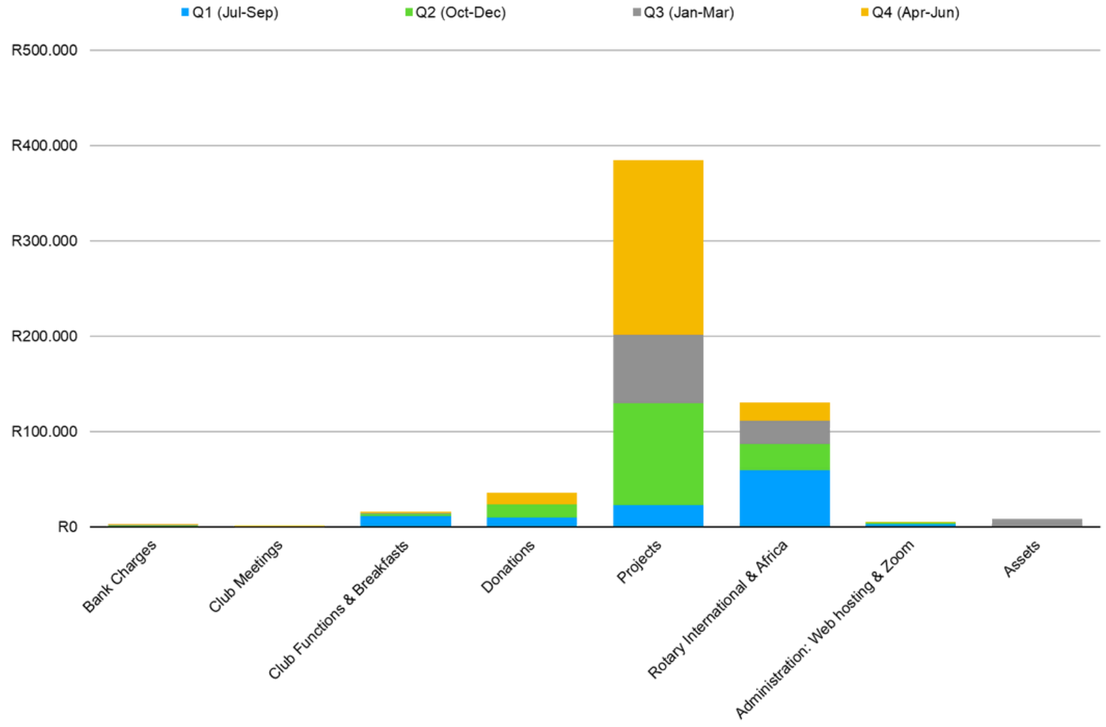
Strong governance ensured that all our community projects were executed efficiently, responsibly, and sustainably.This will continue to be the case moving forward.

FINANCE

INCOME vs EXPENSES



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Board comprises of the following individuals:



Mymoena Ismail
President (Captain)



Dirk Hoffman
Past President



Debby Daniel
Treasurer



Sue Truter
Secretary



Spiro Mitchell
Bosun



June Webber
Membership & Public Image



Piet Postema
Community Services



Jan Buurman
Entrepreneurship & Innovation

TBA
Environment



Maryka Vermaak
Club Admin & Rotary Foundation

OUR VISION & MISSION

TOGETHER we see a world where PEOPLE unite and take action to CREATE lasting CHANGE across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. [GLOBAL]



MISSION



OBJECTIVE 1

Build **diversity, equity, and inclusion.**



OBJECTIVE 2

Build **partnerships** with Private Sector, Government and Rotary Clubs both **locally and internationally.**



OBJECTIVE 3

Drive change and make an impact in the areas of health, inclusivity through **education, innovation, employability** and sustaining our **environment**.



VISION @CLUB

Encourage fellowship and offer our members and volunteers the opportunity to serve our community.

We aim to be inclusive, proactive and innovative in our approach to bringing about hope, peace, and unity to the communities we serve and our members.

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Rotary Club of Waterfront

Celebrating Purpose, Progress, and People-Powered Impact