



## INTRODUCTION

This year Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Durban Umhlatuzana and Rotarians from all over the world have provided shelters for the Japanese Tsunami survivors and supported all sorts of local projects - what have you done? Make a difference and join Rotary today!!

Rotary is an international non-profit organisation comprised of clubs located worldwide. The purpose is to provide humanitarian services throughout the world. Rotarians mostly are business and professional leaders with a strong ethical commitment whose aim is to help build goodwill and peace in the world.

The Rotary Club of Durban Umhlatuzana is a vibrant group of enthusiastic people from various parts of the greater Durban area.

Club members meet once a week on Thursday morning - and are committed to many projects including assisting with care for the elderly and abused women, and upliftment of disadvantaged communities. Fundraising is carried out through activities such as Golf Days, live entertainment and social functions.

## HISTORY

In 1978 the incoming district governor proposed sponsoring a new club. He approached Neil Dawber, President of the Port Natal Rotary Club to sponsor one. The area proposed was defined as the Bluff, Wentworth, Mobeni, Umlazi, Prospecton and Chatsworth. This area, under the old system, had been the territory allocated to Durban South Rotary who now became co-sponsors with the Port Natal Club. Extension Officers Otto Kealton, Ian Hoyer, Dennis Bagwan and Neil Dawber arranged meetings for prospective members. The inaugural meeting of this multi-racial club took place in the Outspan Hotel on Monday 21st May 1979 at 5pm. The name Umhlatuzana, meaning "a forceful little river running through a forest" in Zulu, was chosen for the Club. It was decided to meet every Thursday at 12.45 p.m. The Charter Dinner was held at the Elangeni Hotel on the 29th of September.

After an initial membership of 21 members, numbers slumped to 12 hard core members in 1982, but eventually rose to the current number of 21 again.

In the space of community service the Club has involved itself in many areas, the largest project being the establishment of a crèche in Umlazi. We have involved ourselves in the Youth Exchange Programme and the Group Study Programme. Members have served

on both of these committees at Rotary level. We have also supported the district vocational programmes and have sponsored pupils to leadership courses. An Interact Club is currently in the pipeline.

In 1987 a major change occurred when we converted to a breakfast Club - the first in District 9270 and our venue at the Point Yacht Club has attracted many Rotarians desiring a "make-up" meeting. During our existence we have had six changes of venue and from initially being a lunchtime club, we briefly held meetings from 5pm to 6pm and then made the change to a breakfast meeting.

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

### • TAFTA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Each year Durban Umhlatuzana makes a special effort and contributes to the Ray Hulett TAFTA Christmas Party. Rotary Members handed out fruit and other goodies to all the pensioners at the Christmas Party in 2010 at the John Ross House.



### • DIABETES EXPO

Our annual Diabetes Expo is another special community service experience for Umhlatuzanians. In 2010 we set up the tables and screens, fixed all the many colourful, informative posters, some in English and some in Zulu.

The first visitor walked past and stopped to read the posters. We asked whether he knew about Diabetes and he replied that he did, adding, "My father died last night of Diabetes". Somehow that made us realise just how important it was for people to learn about the disease and to "know their status". At times there were people queuing up to have their sugar levels tested and we eventually lost count how many tests we did.



## • NELSON MANDELA DAY WALK

To celebrate the annual Nelson Mandela Day, the Club takes Queensburgh Cheshire Home residents for a walk on the newly renovated Durban Beachfront. It is always a wonderful day with the sun shining brightly. In 2010 this allowed us to treat all the residents to tea, sandwiches and ice-creams at the Beachfront.



## • THE BIG TWO RANDE FEEDING SCHEMES

Trolley loads of non-perishable groceries filled up fast at both Windermere Centre's Checkers as well as at the Checkers in Lighthouse Mall, Umhlanga, thanks to the sterling efforts of Rotarians from the Durban Umhlatuzana Rotary Club. The Club gives you, the Community, R2, and with our money asks you to buy a non-perishable item, making up the cost yourself.

Ithebalethu Crèche, Nkosinathi Old Age Home, St Vincent de Paul Society and the Veralum Frailcare Centre are some of the worthy recipients of goods from the Big Two Rander project. In 2010 the projects brought in excess of R15 000 in groceries!



## • JOINT PROJECTS

### • BOREHOLE HANDOVER - HARARE ORPHANS

As a joint effort, the Rotary Club of Borrowdale Brook (Zimbabwe), the Rotary Club of Toowoomba (Australia) and the Rotary Club of Durban Umhlatuzana teamed up to have a borehole sunk for the orphans of Harare in Zimbabwe. An excellent morning was had by all who attended the hand-over ceremony of the borehole to the Harare Children's Home on 8 September 2008. It was good to see that the water was already being put to good use with a fantastic vegetable garden having been started. We are also pleased to hear that they were planning to grow enough vegetables for their own consumption and to sell in order to supplement the Home's income.



## CONTACT

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### WEBSITE

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Visit and join our brand new Facebook page - [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) - where you can catch up on events and pictures of what Rotary Umhlatuzana has been up to! A newsletter with news, reviews, updates & events also goes out regularly by email to make sure that no-one misses out.

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