



# ROTARY GRIQUA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

30 July 2018

<http://rotarykimberley.org.za/>

## GIVING PEOPLE A REASON TO SMILE

Since 1993, Rotarians in Chile and the United States have teamed up to provide life-altering reconstructive surgeries.

Ricardo Román was shopping with his wife at a department store in Chile in 2012 when a woman in her early 20s approached him. He didn't recognize her, he confesses through an interpreter, but there were two good reasons: He had last seen her more than a decade earlier – and her smile had changed drastically.

Román, a member of the Rotary Club of Reñaca, Chile, is the national coordinator of a program that has helped thousands of children in Chile with cleft lips, cleft palates, and other birth defects – including this stranger who now wanted to give Román a hug.

The project got its start in 1993 when San Francisco Rotarians, led by Peter Lagarias and Angelo Capozzi, sponsored a medical mission that performed reconstructive surgeries in Chile. That was the beginning of Rotaplast, a program that evolved into a nonprofit organization that has since sent teams to 26 countries.

In 2004, Rotarians in Chile assumed leadership of the program in their country. Over the years, Chilean doctors became more involved and eventually the program expanded to include breast reconstruction for cancer patients.

"It's a great commentary on Rotary that you've got people in a Spanish-speaking country and people in an English-speaking country working together to get things accomplished," says James Lehman, a plastic surgeon of the Rotary Club of Fairlawn, Ohio.

In February, Lehman and a team of U.S. surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses visited Iquique, a Pacific port city 80 miles south of Chile's northern border. With financial help from the nearby Collahuasi copper mine, local Rotarians coordinate and pay for the medical team's food, lodging, and in-country transportation.

More than 250 potential patients from all over Chile lined up early on a Saturday morning outside Ernesto Torres Galdames Hospital to try to get a spot on the team's schedule. About 600 children are born each year in Chile with cleft lips and palates, and though the government established eight centers to treat those abnormalities, the long wait list means corrective surgery can lie years in the future. "The demand exceeds the supply of people to take care of the patients," Lehman explains.

Using four operating rooms, the team got to work. Patients were chosen based on need and on the complexity of the surgery. By the end of their stay, the surgeons and their staff had operated on 82 patients. In many cases, however, the complete reconstruction may take multiple surgeries, and some patients return several years in a row to complete the procedure.

But the final surgery is not the end of the relationship between a patient and Rotary. Román, who has coordinated the program since 2004, recalls an occasion involving the young woman he encountered in the department store. At Román's invitation, she described her transformational cleft lip and palate surgeries at a Rotary district conference in Chile in 2012. Moved by her story, many in the crowd of 300 broke into tears, dazzled by her Rotarian smile.

**"She told me, 'This is my Rotarian smile.' It was a very gratifying moment."**

**ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY**  
**2018-2019**  
 Chartered 20 August 1951  
 Rotary District 9370  
**RI President:** Barry Rassin  
**District Gov:** Gianna Doubell  
**Asst Gov:** Barry Downs  
**Club Pres:** Corlia v.Tonder  
**Secretary:** Gill Quinn  
**Club Board:**  
 Barry Downs  
 Colleen Fairweather  
 Ken Quinn  
 Peter Thomas  
 Amanda van Zyl  
 Pete van Zyl  
**Bulletin Editor:** Peter Thomas  
**Club Meetings:**  
 Kimberley Club  
 Mondays 12:45 for 13:00  
**INFO:** 082 898 3805



# CALENDAR & DUTIES

## JULY

### Literacy Month

30 Jul: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

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*"Pay attention. It's all about paying attention. Attention is vitality. It connects you with others. It makes you eager. Stay eager"*

Susan Sontag

### DUTIES

*If you are unable to do a duty, please make arrangements for a substitute.*

#### WEEK OF 30 JULY

FELLOWSHIP: Ken Quinn  
CORPORAL: Peter Thomas  
TUES COFFEE CLUB: Hein Knoke

#### WEEK OF 6 AUGUST

FELLOWSHIP: Peter Thomas  
CORPORAL: Pete van Zyl  
TUES COFFEE CLUB: Peter Thomas

#### WEEK OF 13 AUGUST

FELLOWSHIP: Pete van Zyl  
CORPORAL: Brenda Booth  
TUES COFFEE CLUB: Corlia van Tonder

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE ROTARY GRIQUA ARE WELCOMED. PLEASE E-MAIL TO:  
[petertee@vodamail.co.za](mailto:petertee@vodamail.co.za)



**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and the contributors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rotary Club of Kimberley, of Rotary District 9370 or of Rotary International.

## AUGUST

### Membership & Extension Month

6 Aug: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00  
9 Aug: National Women's Day (Thursday)  
9 Aug: Gariep Hospital Sports Day  
13 Aug: Business Meeting 12:45 for 13:00  
20 Aug: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00  
27 Aug: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00  
DATE TO BE REVISED: Rotary Duathlon

### CELEBRATIONS

#### BIRTHDAYS

20 Aug Rotary Club of Kimberley (1951)  
22 Sep Gill Quinn  
23 Sep Gordon Dally (Honorary)  
29 Sept Marie Parsons (Honorary)

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

29 Aug Mike & Beryl Bradnum (Honorary)  
27 Sep Corlia & Dries Van Tonder

#### INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

30 Aug 2009 Pete Van Zyl

#### COFFEE CLUB BIRTHDAYS

8 Aug Derek Preece  
24 Aug Trevor Urry  
10 Sept Dennis Sparrow

## MEME OF THE WEEK

**I REMEMBER THE TIME I WAS KIDNAPPED AND THEY SENT A PIECE OF MY FINGER TO MY FATHER. HE SAID HE WANTED MORE PROOF!**



**Rodney Dangerfield**