ROTARY CLUB OF ROSEBANK
District 9300

50th ANNIVERSARY
16th JUNE 1954 – 2004

Celebration dinner held in the Ubuntu Room,
Wanderers Club
June 15th, 2004
Foreword by District Governor
Greg Stathacopulos

Dear President Jean and Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Rosebank

On behalf of Rotary International President Jonathan B Majiyagbe I would like to congratulate you on your club’s 50th anniversary. Your milestone is reached at a very important stage of Rotary International’s history where, together with your fellow Rotarians around the world, you were asked to “Lend a Hand” and to prepare to “Celebrate Rotary” into the new millennium.

The Rotary Club of Rosebank has been one of the primary clubs in District 9300. The dedication and commitment of its Rotarians and their partners in service has made the club very relevant to the community it serves. The club has been involved in all the Avenues of Rotary Service and has embraced the concept of the Family of Rotary to the benefit of the less privileged communities. The club is a credit to the memory of the charter members whose vision was to provide service above self.

May your endeavours in the future continue to serve your communities and may the club grow in strength.

Best wishes

Greg Stathacopulos
District Governor
A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JEAN BERNARDO

Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Dr Jack Boswell, who chartered our club in 1954, and the presidents who have come after him.

Our club has been involved in exciting and worthwhile projects over the past fifty years and assisted the local community in many ways. I think of the donated ambulances, incubators, youth courses, the Montgomery Haven retirement village, the community centre built in Alexandra, and I know that we hold a special place in the hearts of those we have served.

It has been a privilege to lead the club through this the 50th year and I wish the future presidents and members great success in their endeavours through the next fifty.

Yours in Rotary

PRESIDENT JEAN BERNARDO

Charter Member Hellier Griffin with President Jean Bernardo, 27.6.03
THE BEGINNING

Rotary began in Johannesburg when authority was given by Rotary International for the establishment of a Rotary Club. A Rotarian by the name of Fisher assisted by several American and British ex-Rotarians instituted the Rotary Club of Johannesburg on April 25th 1921.

This was the only Rotary Club in Johannesburg until 1954 by which time the Johannesburg Club membership had grown to 170. It was realised that this was far too large a group for a Rotary Club and that a city the size of Johannesburg required more than one Rotary Club. Thus it came about that Rosebank became the first daughter of the Johannesburg Club.

The first step towards the formation of this new club was taken when DG Arthur Thornton requested President Alec McPhail to consider the advisability of forming a new club in the Rosebank area. PDG Strat Read was given the task of surveying the area and determining the portion which would have to be ceded to a new club.

On receiving PDG Strat Read’s report Pres. McPhail requested Dr. Jack Boswell and C. Payne, both ardent members of the Johannesburg Rotary Club, to proceed with the establishment of the Rosebank Rotary Club.

In February 1954 Jack Boswell invited provisional members to a lunch at the Wanderers Club and on the 5th March the first luncheon of the Rosebank RC took place with Dr. Jack Boswell in the chair. This inaugural lunch was attended by five Past District Governors namely, Dick Currie, Albert Haak, Horace Babb, Strat Read, and J.J. Walker. Thereafter meetings were held each Friday at lunch time and on the 16th June 1954 the Rotary club of Rosebank received its Charter.

The induction of the Charter members took place at a dinner held on the 4th August which was attended by many visitors and prominent personalities in the world of Rotary. The first official duty of the District Governor Dr. T. D. Hall was to install Jack Boswell as the first President. The charter members were then introduced by the President to the District Governor who presented them with their Rotarian emblems.
Assembly 6.30 p.m.        Dinner 7.15 p.m.
Presentation of Charter by District Governor
Dr. T. D. HALL

Programme

1. Call to order 7.15 p.m.

2. Grace             Rotarian Rev. Albert Walshaw

3. Dinner

4. Toast “HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN”    DG

5. Toast “Sy Eksellensie die Goeverneur-Generaal”   DG

6. Presentation of Charter     DG

7. Induction of President Rotarian
   Dr Jack Boswell                     DG

8. Presentation of Charter members     DG

9. Welcome to His Worship the
   Mayor Hon. Rotarian C.J.
   Patmore and the Mayoress           The President

10. Welcome to distinguished
    guests                                The President

11. Welcome to visiting Rotarians
    and Club representatives            The President

12. Sergeant at Arms                Rotarian Chris Parnell

INTERVAL – 10 MINUTES

13. Toast “Rotary International”    DG

14. Reply                      Past DG Rotarian J.J. Walker

15. Toast “Rotary Club of Rosebank”
    Rotarian A. Anderson, President of
    sponsor club Rotary Club of
    Johannesburg

16. Toast “The Ladies”       Rotarian Dr John Grant
The activities of Rotary were begun with three committees, namely Club Service, Vocational, and the Golden Jubilee Anniversary Committee.

**Club Service:** In addition to ensuring the smooth running of the club a sub-committee was formed to organise outings for the elderly residents of St. Christopher’s Home in Witkoppen. These took the form of motor excursions to the homes of Rotarians who acted as hosts.

**Vocational:** The possibility of introducing the “Four way test” into schools occupied the attention of the committee during the first year. Unfortunately this was met with some opposition and was not implemented.

**Golden Jubilee Anniversary Committee:** This committee was formed to organise a banquet to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Rotary International. Various projects to commemorate the Jubilee were considered and eventually three of them were accepted by the club namely:

1) The raising of money towards the building of a Communal Hall in the Alexandra Township.
2) The provision of an ambulance for the Northern Suburbs Red Cross.
3) The sponsoring of a new Rotary Club for the Orange Grove District.

The Golden Jubilee Banquet was held at the Wanderers Club on February 23rd 1955 and was attended by 368 Rotarians and guests. The event was organised jointly by the committees of Johannesburg and Rosebank Rotary Clubs.

Past Presidents at 25th Anniversary Celebrations
MEMBERS OF THE ROSEBANK ROTARY CLUB
1954
CHARTER MEMBERS

President: Dr. Jack Boswell
Vice President: Brigadier Charles Hoffe
Honorary Secretary: Dr. Campbell Dickson
Honorary Treasurer: Humphrey van Heerden
Sergeant at Arms: C Payne

W. R. Alison  E. B. Berrill  A. M. Carmichael
C. E. Cawse   T. S. Cawse   A. R. Cramer
R. S. Cramer  Dr. G. de Marillac  A. F. Freeman
Dr. J. F. C. Grant  J. H. Griffin  J. R. Harvey
H. S. Holding  J. Ingram  H. T. E. Kiley
L. P. Morelli  Dr. H. Moross  J. L. Nykamp
W. Paterson  A. Peerman  V. A. Ratcliff
F. J. W. Short  J. R. Tucker  Rev. A. Walshaw
J. C. O’ Farrell  C. Weavind

Board of Directors: Payne, Ingram, Short, Paterson.
PDG Walker was co-opted as an additional member in an advisory capacity

Dr Jack Boswell, Charter President
A MESSAGE FROM THE WANDERERS CLUB CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL JURY

On behalf of the Committee and Members of The Wanderers Club, I extend my very best wishes and congratulations to Rosebank Rotary Club on your 50th Anniversary.

We, at Wanderers, appreciate your loyal support of our Club over the past half century and applaud the immense contribution your Club has made to greater society over that period.

We look forward to our continuing relationship and furthering the mutual benefits that can be developed through our on-going association.
To all at Rosebank Rotary, we wish you much success in the future with all the commendable projects that you plan to undertake. The spirit and enthusiasm with which you pursue your goals is a great inspiration.

The Wanderers Club circa 1954

In the first year of Rosebank’s history a meeting was convened during November 1954 by Mrs. Joan Boswell, wife of the president. At this meeting of the ladies it was decided to start a Rotary Anns Section and the following office bearers were appointed:

- President: Mrs. Joan Boswell
- Vice President: Mrs. A Moross
- Honorary Secretary: Mrs. J Ingram
- Executive Committee: Mrs. J D Tucker, Mrs. Morelli, Mrs. Payne

The first meeting of the Anns Club was held in February 1955 and thereafter the 3rd Monday of each month.

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OVER THE YEARS ……

1954 – Club Bulletin – originally called “Rota”, this was produced every second month by Hellier Griffin. Later, this became “The Rosebank Ramble”.

1955 - An ambulance was provided for the Red Cross.
1956 – Alexandra Clinic – R2 224 was contributed towards the cost of a waiting room for patients.
1957 - Rudolf Steiner Institution - Cresset House: foundation stone was laid for a hall to be used for social assistance and guidance of the deaf and dumb. Continued support for some years.
1958 – First Foundation Fellow, Anthony Lange, was put forward by Rosebank and accepted by District. Thus began a long list of successes by Rosebank in having candidates selected for Rotary Foundation programmes.
1959 – Career Guidance evenings were started at Wanderers. Due to their popularity these were extended to Wits University where lectures were given by the heads of various faculties.
1960 - School awards programme in place, headed by Dudley Wood. He continues to run this project, over 40 years later!
1962 – Dudley Wood became involved with Veld and Vlei and continued for many years to support the scheme.
1963 – Rivonia Youth Club became the Rotor club for Rosebank.
1963 – Tara Hospital: Charter Member and third President of the Club, Dr Hymie Moross was Superintendent at Tara. The Psychiatric Nursing Award was instituted and funds were made available to send nurses to London to attend International Psychiatric Nursing conferences. This continued over a number of years. Rosebank continued to support Tara into the 90’s.
1964 – 27th June: Dr Jack Boswell was inducted as DG at Wanderers, attended by 225 Rotarians, Anns and guests. RI President Charles Pettengill visited Johannesburg and a cocktail party was held at Wanderers on August 29th. As an added bonus, his plane was delayed arriving in Johannesburg and as he was not able to get to his luncheon appointment at the Standerton Club he was taken to Rosebank by the DG, Jack Boswell, it being the nearest available club. He received a rousing reception from the surprised and delighted members and gave a brief and friendly talk.
1967 – Official opening of Montgomery Haven on October 18th. Rosebank was involved until the 90’s.
1969 - There was an increase in the luncheon price to R1.30, inclusive of drink, irrespective of whether the drink was taken or not. Times have changed….!
1970 – Rotors agreed to change their constitution to Rotoract and to
affiliate direct with RI. New charter handed to the Rotoract Club in early 1971.

1970 – The Sandton Club was founded by Rosebank. Meetings were held at Inanda. Rosebank donated the Presidential Badge to them.

1972 – Youth Leadership Courses first organised at Parktown Convent. These continue to be held annually, run by Youth Committee.

1975 – The Club’s bell was stolen from Wanderers, and three clocks went missing – what’s so different now?

…… AND MORE RECENTLY

Alexandra Crèche and Adult Training Centre: Opened April 2000

Ambulances: The Club has donated three fully equipped ambulances to Msunduza Salvation Army Clinic Swaziland, Deborah Retief Hospital at Mochudi, Botswana and Mangweni Clinic, Kangwane

Art Exhibition: First held in March 1995, this has been an annual and most successful fund raising event for ten years.

China Project: Co-operation with a Rotary club in Hong Kong who send shipments of linen, curtains, etc. for Retirement Homes in Johannesburg in exchange for SA doctors going to China to treat leprosy patients.

Cycle Race: The first Cycle Race was organised in association with Cresta Wheelers and continues today jointly organised by Rosebank, Northcliff and First Wheelers.

Firlands: Has been supported from the early days when it was Firlands Boys’ Home, to recent fêtes and fund-raising events.

First Female Rotarian: Jean Bernardo inducted on 4th February, 2000.

Golf Days: Have been held throughout the Club’s history.

Jane Furze Hospital, Lebowa: Incubator and medical equipment supplied.
Matching Grants: Through the efforts of dedicated and persistent Rosebank Rotarians, we have obtained many Grants throughout the years.

Phutadichaba: From the early 80’s Rosebank has been involved in the upliftment of Alexandra and most recently with this self-help project.

Rotary International: The PolioPlus campaign has been extensively supported by Rosebank Rotarians and Anns.

Sculptures for the Blind: Display at Cresta Centre in 2000.

Student Exchanges: Rosebank has hosted and sent out numerous Youth Exchange Students, Group Study Exchange teams, and Ambassadorial Scholars.

Unite against Hunger: Rosebank participated in collection of foodstuffs for this recent District project.

Fellowship: And we have had FUN! Progressive dinners, non-talent nights, champagne breakfasts in the park, film evenings, trips to game reserves and the Drakensberg, bird-watching outings, hikes, etc. etc. – Rosebank Rotarians and Anns certainly know how to make the most of the word “Fellowship”.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF ROSEBANK CLUB

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