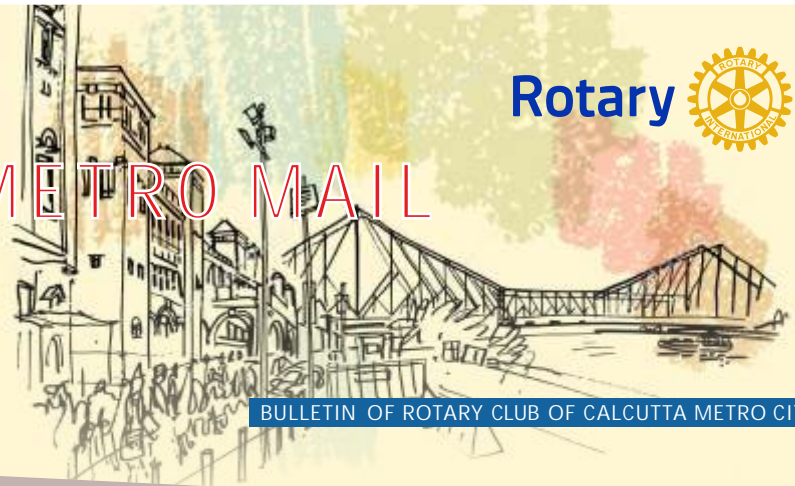


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BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA METRO CITY



Youth Engagement : The Energy That Powers Rotary's Future

Every generation leaves its imprint on Rotary, but it is the engagement of youth that determines how relevant, resilient and dynamic the organisation remains in a rapidly changing world. Across continents, Rotary is witnessing a transformative shift wherever young leaders are encouraged not merely to participate, but to lead, innovate and question convention.

Youth engagement injects vitality into club culture. Young Rotarians and participants from programmes like Rotaract, Interact and Youth Exchange bring with them fresh ideas, technological adaptability and a strong instinct for collaboration. They understand the language of contemporary communities and are often more connected to emerging social concerns such as mental health, climate action, digital literacy and inclusivity. Their presence compels Rotary to evolve without compromising its timeless values of service and fellowship.

More importantly, youth participation accelerates project implementation. Younger members contribute energy, mobility and innovative thinking, helping clubs execute initiatives with greater speed, visibility and community outreach. They amplify Rotary's impact through digital communication, social media advocacy and grassroots mobilisation, enabling service projects to reach wider audiences and attract new partnerships.

A Rotary ecosystem that actively mentors and empowers youth also creates continuity in leadership. When experienced Rotarians work alongside younger members, knowledge and institutional wisdom are preserved while new perspectives are embraced. This intergenerational synergy strengthens clubs and reduces stagnation.

The future of Rotary International will not be built merely through tradition, but through the courage to embrace youthful dynamism. When youth become stakeholders in Rotary's mission, Rotary does not merely grow — it accelerates toward a more impactful global future.

Subhojit Roy

Rotary Projects Around the Globe - May 2026

By Brad Webber



United States

The deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century killed more than 100 people and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses on the Hawaiian island of Maui in August 2023. Searching for healing and reflection, the community group Aloha Amplified organized a twilight walk and ceremony this past September, supported by District 5000's fire relief fund and the three Rotary clubs in Lahaina. Hundreds of people carried lanterns along a milelong route, joining together at the end in the revered song "Hawai'i Aloha." The event featured cultural entertainment and booths staffed by local groups, including Rotary clubs. Rotarians, many of whom lost their own homes and businesses, also volunteered at the event. "People know Rotary in Lahaina," says Joanne Laird, of the Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset.



Italy

The Rotary Club of Monfalcone-Grado revels in the history and charm of its northern Italian region, located northeast of Venice near the Slovenian border. A recent project helped ensure that information is accessible to everyone, including people with visual impairments. In December, members unveiled a multisensory panel explaining the story of the Church of San Proto in San Canzian d'Isonzo, just west of their community. The 15th century chapel sits atop foundations dating to the fourth century. The panel combines educational content with tactile elements and Braille notations, with a placement designed for easy access by wheelchair users. "The church is located along an ancient Roman road and represents an important example of what we often call 'minor heritage,' meaning small sites with great historical and cultural value that deserve to be known and protected," says club member Paolo Messana. Rotary members participated in every phase of the project, says Messana, "from concept and design to approvals and installation."



Costa Rica

Lush rainforests and world-renowned birding help draw hundreds of thousands of travelers to Costa Rica every year. That backdrop belies many needs, including for children in the country. Stéphane Dähler, a Swiss expatriate who works in the tourism industry, reports his Rotary Club of Belén, northwest of the capital of San José, is committed to improving education and health outcomes. In February, members worked at the Español School to assemble, sand, and paint 112 desks funded by the club, District 4240 in Costa Rica, and Rotarians from District 5280 in California. The following month, Belén Rotarians visited the Santiago Alpizar School to drop off books. To help fill gaps in health care, the club held a medical camp in rural Puriscal in December to offer blood screenings and a toy distribution. The club "has become a bridge that unites Costa Rican industry with the common good, showing that the private sector and volunteers can generate a positive and sustainable effect," Dähler says.

- 5,000 - Maui residents displaced by 2023 wildfires
- 900+ - Bird species in Costa Rica



Tunisia

When Yassine Harzallah was alerted to overcrowding in a primary school, he paid a visit and witnessed children studying on the floor and in corridors, with their notebooks on their knees. He snapped a photo, and "that image alone was enough to convince every member of our club that we had a responsibility to act," says Harzallah, president of the Rotary Club of Ruspina Monastir. In December, the entire contingent visited the school, an hour drive from the club's base in Monastir city. Members brought supplies, including hygiene products, cleaning items, a printer, a wheelbarrow, shovels, and hoes. A member architect drafted blueprints and watched over a local contractor who assembled a modular room off-site at a reduced cost. In January the structure, a new reading room, was delivered.

- 79% -Italians who are Catholic
- 30,000+ -Book titles presented at 2025 Tunis City Book Fair



Australia

Family violence is a major health and social issue in Australia, according to the national Institute of Health and Welfare. Rotary Safe Families focuses on reducing the stigma around recognizing the problem. This year the project, which was founded in 2018 and has a presence in 48 countries, is preparing to enlist Rotary clubs to sponsor a local school through a program called Towards Respectful Relationships. It fosters “safe spaces for kids to talk about family violence and respect,” says program founder Dorothy Gilmour, a member of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn. “It has been a long, bumpy road to get Australians to discuss the taboo topic of family violence.” More recently, though, “I have noticed that family violence is becoming less taboo.”

This story originally appeared in the May 2026 issue of Rotary magazine.

A Monumental Club Project in South Dakota

By Kristen Pope

It would be, quite simply, the largest sculpture in the world: a colossal likeness of Crazy Horse, the Oglala Lakota chief, on a galloping stallion carved into the granite of a mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota. But in 1949, about a year into the project, sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski ran into a vexing problem. He needed stairs. Lots of them.

“It was a very tedious process, and he just wasn’t moving as fast as he wanted, so he put a request out to the community,” says Marguerite Cullum, a retired staff librarian at the Crazy Horse Memorial, which manages the site.



The Rotary Club of Custer on a tour of the mountaintop. Courtesy of Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

Answering the call was the nearby Rotary Club of Custer. The members’ task was to help assemble a 700-foot wooden staircase running from the valley floor to the top of Thunderhead Mountain. They formed a human chain, passing each piece of lumber — 29 tons of it — from person to person up the side of the mountain to help construct the 741 steps.

Thus began a long-standing collaboration and friendship between the Custer club and the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation, which would grow beyond the monument to establish a museum and an educational institution, Crazy Horse Memorial University, that offers college credit in several academic programs and prepares Native American students to succeed in higher education.

Whitney Rencountre II is chief executive officer of the memorial today. He is Crow Creek Hunkpati Dakota from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. Because the foundation runs solely on donations and accepts no government funding, partners like the Rotary club are critically important.

The idea for the monument began in the late 1930s with Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear, who watched Mount Rushmore taking shape 10 miles away elsewhere in the Black Hills and wanted to show that his people had great heroes. The man he chose to honor was his cousin, Tasunke Witko, whose name translates to His Horse Is Wild or Crazy Horse, a leader best known for defeating Lieutenant Colonel George Custer and the Army’s 7th Cavalry at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

In 1939, Standing Bear wrote to Ziolkowski, a Boston-born sculptor who had assisted at Mount Rushmore, to invite him to take the job. Ziolkowski began construction in 1948 and devoted the rest of his life to the project until his death in 1982 at age 74.

Each year, more than 1 million people visit the memorial, which remains a work in progress. The 87-foot, 6-inch-tall face was finished in 1998, and sculptors are working on other parts of the mammoth artwork, such as the 263-foot outstretched arm.

While the monument is not without critics — some object to the reshaping of a sacred mountain or contend that some of the funding could have gone directly to tribes — the Rotary club is dedicated to its relationship with the organization. “Crazy Horse is an important part of Custer,” says Club President Jason Ferguson. “And we want to be partners with entities like [them because their] mission is great.”

A memorial with a Mission

A look at the purpose of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation:

- Finish the world’s largest sculpture to honor Crazy Horse and all Indigenous people of North America
- Provide educational and cultural programming to encourage reconciliation and unity
- Serve as a repository for Native American artifacts, arts, and crafts
- Operate the Crazy Horse Memorial University to provide a pathway to higher education for Native students

That mission includes themes important to Rotary members. Intended to honor all Indigenous people of North America, the memorial, according to its website, “stands as a reminder of the importance of reconciliation, respecting differences, embracing diversity, striving for unity, and appreciating life’s deeper meaning as it has always been represented in Native American cultural values.”

With an annual donation, the club has supported the Crazy Horse Memorial University, where hundreds of Native students have earned college credit through short academic programs and gone on to pursue degrees at other colleges and universities.



Today's club members continue to support the foundation, including its Crazy Horse Memorial University, where hundreds of Native students have earned college credit. Image credit : Dawn E. Lebeau

Over the years, the club has invited representatives of the university and the memorial to present at meetings and share their work and progress. "We appreciate when they come and educate us on what's going on up there because it's just fascinating stuff," Ferguson says. The club had a chance to observe the monument's progress firsthand when members toured the top of the mountain. "The view up there is unbelievable," Ferguson adds.

The club has also relied on the memorial as a venue for events like a Christmas party and its wine-tasting and raffle fundraisers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the memorial offered the club a conference room to host remote and socially distanced meetings after the group could no longer gather at its usual location. "That was a huge thing to keep us pulled together, that we didn't dissolve. We're still going strong," says Cullum, who was a club president during the pandemic. "It's a good bond. It's good to know that we can ask for help."

Rencountre shares that sentiment: "The Rotary collaboration that we've had through the years has really helped us to advance the work of the mission and

the dream, the vision of Crazy Horse Memorial."

This story originally appeared in the May 2026 issue of Rotary magazine.

District News

Press Meet



On 7th May, a Press meet was organized as a precursor to the World Thalassaemia Day on 8th March. The press meet was convened by DPIC Subhojit Roy and addressed by PRID Anirudha Roychowdhury, DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri, PDG Sam Showket (from Bangladesh).

Thalassaemia Summit



On 8th May, a Thalassaemia Summit was organized by District 3291 with delegates from Maharashtra, Maldives, Bangladesh joined by Rotarians and Interactors. The program took stock of what has happened and the road map ahead in the journey towards a Thalassaemia free India. DPIC Subhojit Roy presented the entire program on stage and DG Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri gave the formal presentation of the activities and the plan ahead. PDGs Ravi Sehgal, Rajendra Khandelwal, Rajani Mukerji also took part in the deliberations.



Forthcoming Programs



Blood Donation



On 8th May 2026, World Thalassaemia Day, our club, in association with Thalassaemia Society of India, Peoples Blood Bank and Interact Club of St. Stephen's School Bowbazar, conducted a blood donation camp at St. Stephen's School Bowbazar.

22 persons donated blood, which will be used for the treatment of Thalassaemia patients of the Thalassaemia Society of India. We thank all the donors for donating their blood to save lives.

We thank Ms. Niharika Mukherjee, School Curriculum Coordinator of St. Stephen's School, for her help in organising this donation camp at St. Stephens School and for donating her blood.

We thank the Interactors of the school's Interact Club for their assistance in the camp.

Our club was represented at the camp by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy, Club Secretary Rtn Arindam Ghosh, Rtn Dipanwita Banerjee and Club President Sunando Sen.

Rtn Dipanwita Banerjee also donated her blood at the camp.

(Reported by Club President Sunando Sen)



Thalassaemia Awareness Camp



On 14th May 2026, our club, in association with Tulshighata Narayan Seva Ashram, conducted a Thalassaemia Awareness Camp at the Tulshighata Seva Ashram Campus, Tulshighata, Joynagar.

The camp was attended by 50 girls & boys students from various schools of Tulshighata. The awareness talk was delivered by our club member PP Rtn Subhojit Roy.

This was the first time an awareness camp was held in this area, and the students appreciated the talk, which was wonderfully presented by Rtn Subhojit Roy. At the end of the talk, the students took an oath to get their blood tested for Thalassaemia and that they would spread the word on Thalassaemia prevention to make a Thalassaemia Free India.

Besides PP Rtn Subhojit Roy, Club Secretary Rtn Arindam Ghosh and Club President Rtn Sunando Sen were present at the awareness camp.

(Reported by Club President Sunando Sen)

23rd May : 7:30 pm COLS - Club Officers Learning Seminar by PDG Shyamashree Sen.

10th June : 9:30 am - Inauguration of the Happy School will be done by DG Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri.

