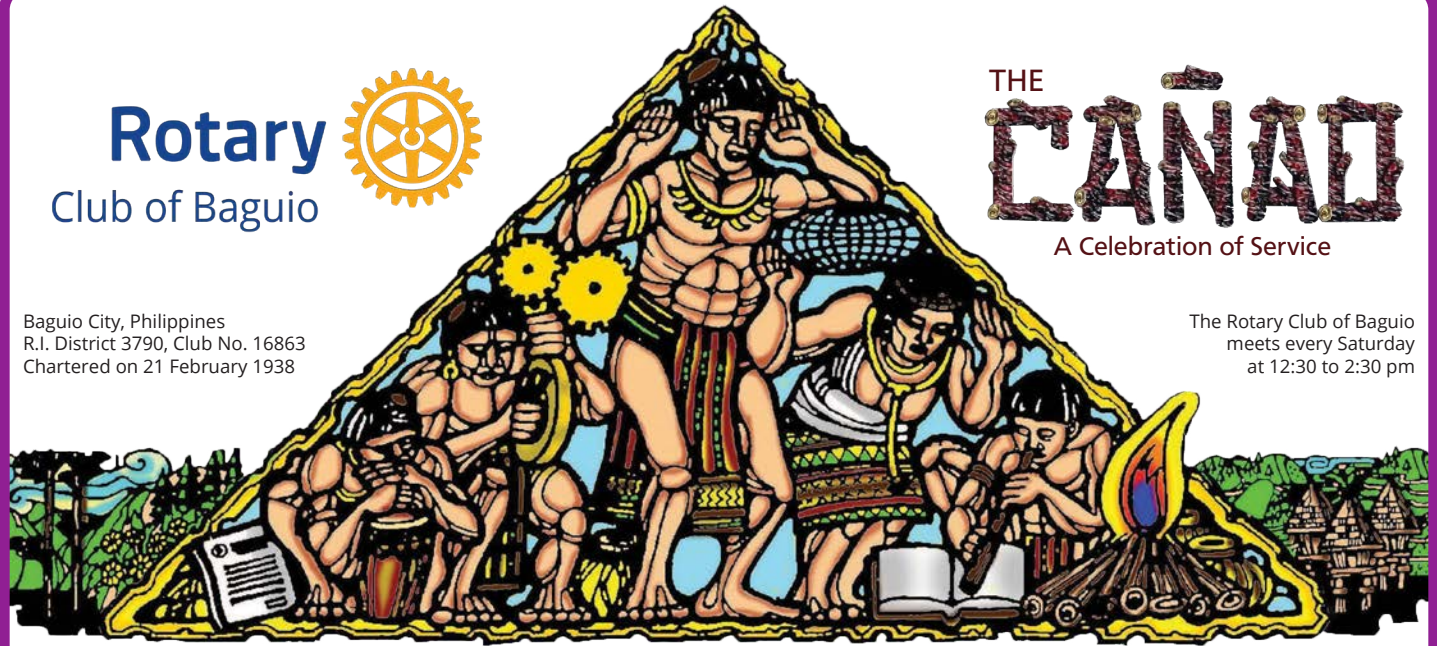




Baguio City, Philippines  
R.I. District 3790, Club No. 16863  
Chartered on 21 February 1938

The Rotary Club of Baguio  
meets every Saturday  
at 12:30 to 2:30 pm



**OFFICIAL CLUB BULLETIN**      **Volume LXXV Issue 33**      **29 April 2023**

**PROGRAMME**

**Regular Program**  
29 April 2023

- 12:00 PM Fellowship
- 12:30 Call to Order ..... Pres. Ali Morales
- Invocation ..... Rtn. Annie Viernes
- Pambansang Awit
- Rotary Hymn
- 4 Way Test
- 1:20 Introduction of Visiting Rotarians & Guests  
... Rtn. Levy Orcales
- Entertainment ..... Rtn. Jody Alabanza
- Finest Moments ..... PP Gerard Audineau
- Raffle ..... PP Veeh Balajo  
& PP Atom Mendalla
- 1:40 Member's Time
- 1:50 President's Time
- 1:55 Introduction of Guest of Honor & Speaker  
... PP Chris Faelnar
- GHS: Ard Benjamin Ventura
- Topic: "Programs & Projects of DENR CAR"
- Open Forum
- Response ..... PP Atom Mendalla
- 2:25 RCB Hymn
- 2:30 Pilipinas Kong Mahal
- Adjournment ..... Pres. Ali Morales

**CONTENTS AT A GLANCE**

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**RTN. Levy Orcales**  
Program Coordinator

**PP Gerard Audineau**  
Retrospector

**PP Veeh Balajo**  
Imager



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

**Jennifer Jones**  
Rotary International President

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR

**Ana Maria "Ann" Lorenzana**  
District Governor

**Gov. Digna Ragasa**  
Vice Governor

**Dan Torres**  
Assistant Governor

## RCB BOARD

**Pres. Ali Morales**  
President

**PP / Sec. Baby Kaur**  
Secretary

**PP Marilyn Barredo**  
Treasurer

**PE Cora Ocampo**  
President Elect

**PP / EIC Libby Fernandez**  
Editor-in-Chief

**VP Joe Ursua**  
Vice President

**Dir. Mariver Agayas**  
Director

**Dir. Lorena Cachola**  
Director

**Dir. Emylou de Guzman**  
Director

**Dir. Reymund Barrios**  
Director

**Dir. Susan Villanueva**  
Director

**Dir. Glen Flores**  
Director

**Dir. Tonton Tan**  
Director

**Rtn. Bert Talco**  
TRF Chair

**IPP Arnel Cabanizas**  
Immediate Past President



**Pres. Ali Morales**

**President**  
**Rotary Club of Baguio**

*"The environment is where we all meet, where all have a mutual interest; it is one thing all of us share." - Lady Bird Johnson*

**G**ood afternoon Fellow Members of the Rotary Club of Baguio, Spouses, Partners, Friends and Guests of Rotary.

Today is our last regular meeting for the "ENVIRONMENT" - Rotary themed for the month of May, hosted by our Dynamic Group, the Team V Squad with the Venus, Director and President Nominee Susan Villanueva, at the helm.

Let us all thank the group for giving us experts in the Environment field, giving us very informative and educational insights on environment from the first week's Mr. Eugene Buyucan of our very own city's General Services Department, followed by the beautiful, intelligent, full of wisdom, Ms. Becky Tenefrancia and for today, let us all welcome the Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the Cordillera Administrative Region (DENR-CAR), Mr. Benjamin Ventura, our Guest of Honor and Speaker to talk about the Programs and Projects of DENR CAR.

The past 2 weeks has been a very busy and hectic week for us, members of RC Baguio, Cluster 1C and District 3790.

On April 17, 2023 a Certificate of Commendation was proudly presented to the Rotary Club of Baguio, by our very own City Mayor, a public servant, Hon Benjamin "Benjie Magalong" with an excerpt "...for their selfless dedication, tireless efforts, and willingness to lend a helping hand have greatly contributed to the successful cleanup of the Baguio City Public Market. Their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty is a testament to their remarkable character and unwavering commitment to making a positive difference to their community. They have only simplified the spirit of volunteerism and have shown us that even in the face of adversity, we can even rise above it and come out stronger."

CONGRATULATIONS to us the members of the Rotary Club of Baguio, indeed, another Service Above Self act that was recognized by our very own City.

Many thanks to our colleagues who represented our club to receive this worthwhile commendation, Directors Reymund and Tonton (what a way to celebrate your birthday) - President Elect Cora, President Nominee Susan, Past President and Secretary Baby, Rotarian Elaine and Guest Vie.

April 18, 2023 was a cluster zoom meeting attended by the members of Cluster 1C, most of whom are the Presidents and the Secretaries. Discussion was about the upcoming visit of RIPR (Rotary International President-Representative) Mary Berge and spouse Ivar Berge, which was scheduled April 25, 2023. Being known as the "formal" club in the cluster, we were assigned to do the program, which we did and was appreciated by the cluster- which they say indeed a FORMAL meeting.

April 20, 2023 was the Inurnment of RAPP Helen Poblador, the spouse of our former member, Rtn Nick Poblador. Our condolences to Manong Nick and the whole bereaved family. May the repose of the soul of Manang Helen rest in peace. We would like to thank PP Chris F and RAPP Oyee and PP Diony and RAPP Louie for attending the said funeral.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 21 to 23, 2023 was District 3790's DISCON (District Conference). The said conference was well attended by the 96 clubs in the district and also by our club with 14 registrants with 12 attendees. Many thanks to our Baby Rotarians Elaine and Arlene; Director Lou, PDG Linda, Past Presidents Libby, Baby, Anet, Lani and Pareng Doc-Alfred, PE Cora, PN Susan.

It was a fun-filled, very educational, inspiring 3-day conference with remarkable speakers, RIPP - PDG Mary Berge, Mr. Francis Kong, which started with Friday afternoon's leadership topics and ended with a fellowship night full of high spirited Dynamic Leaders and D3790 Rotarians.

The 2nd day, April 22 was a continuation of educational topics by top leaders and speakers starting with PDG Sonny Coloma, Hon. Geraldine Roman, Rep of Bataan 1st District; Rtn Rhea Tan, CEO of Beatederm, Dr. Alfred Mahar Lagmay, PhD, Head of UP Resilience Institute and USEC Amihilda Sancopan, Mindanao Affairs & Rural Development Department of Agrarian Reform and ended with the Governor's ball, a Magiical Night.

The 3rd day, started with a 6:30 AM breakfast meeting hosted by DGov Ann with her Dynamic Leaders followed by a Thanksgiving Mass at 8 in the morning officiated by a fellow Rotarian- attendee. Then came the resumption of the plenary session with the RY 2021-2022 Financial Report of IPDS Willie Serafica, legislations and other matters and another message from RIPP Mary Berge, who rated the D3790's DISCON as A+. CONGRATULATIONS GOV ANN, PP Didet, Presmate Lloyd Golosino and the whole RCDowntown Olongapo for a very successful District Conference.

The 3-day conference ended with the Raffle of the major prizes, with PP Libby winning the 5th prize, a personal refrigerator. Day 1 raffle winners include PDG Linda and me, while on day 2, Dir Lou won a room dehumidifier. Indeed, RC Baguio are very lucky winners.

Three of our attendees, Director Lou, Past Presidents EIC Libby and Sec Baby received the Imagine Rotary Citation from Gov Ann. The criteria is any Rotarian who had attended at least 2 district events, contributed at least USD 100 annual and USD 100 Polio funds respectively and had sponsored at least 1 new member for the RY 2022-2023.

We also received our share from the DGF amounting to USD 3,000.00 instead of USD 1,500.00. I initially requested Gov Ann to release USD 2,500 if we will reach USD 16,000.00 TRF contribution which we only had contributed 13,000 USD as of the cut-off date March 15. She agreed, the reason why I always plea for additional TRF contributions. Last Sunday, when I was about to get the check, she again posed a challenge

to give the club USD 3,000 instead of 2,500, if we can donate 18k usd which I accepted. Hence, your tagged as "Pres-Surer" (mixed President and Treasurer), our club's official beggar, yours truly is again knocking on your generous hearts for additional donation to TRF. MARAMING SALAMUCH in advance. I am confident that with RC Baguio Members magnanimity, we will reach the committed TRF of USD 18,000 for this RY.

For everyone's info, our club will be receiving USD 5,000.00 and USD 3,000.00 for our Global Grant's proposed water project and Project 1's proposed projects respectively. A total of 8,000 USD. Thus, let us all support by donating to THE ROTARY FOUNDATION.

April 25, 2023 was the Cluster 1C 's meeting at the Opal Room at the Hotel Supreme, as we were again privileged and honored by the presence of RIPP Mary Berge as our GHS accompanied by her spouse, Rotarian Ivar. We were 19 attendees out of 22 registrants from our club. Many thanks to our attendees who committed and paid the registration fee- our newly inducted Rotarians for this RY - Arlene, Bess, Elaine and Jeff and Incoming Directors - Levy and Eric, Rotarian Nancy, Saud, Directors Lou, Reymund and Vell, Past Presidents Atom, Baby, Lani, Libby, Marilyn and Veeh, PDG Linda.

As we thank PP Marilyn for her 2nd treat of scoops of ice cream (the first one for his balikbayan treat and the 2nd for her birthday treat last April 16, Let us also greet our colleagues, Director Ton, PP Atom and PP Veeh who celebrated their birthdays on April 17, 21 and 24 respectively. We wish you a very happy birthday and may all your wishes come true, more blessings too.

Let us also congratulate IPP Arnel, one of the Life Changing Presidents / Rotarians as private sector representative in the Regional Development Council of the National Economic Development Authority.

And, may we also Congratulate and welcome our newest and the youngest, our 12th Rotarian inductee for this RY, Rotarian Frederick Gabriel "GAB" Exibia. Good luck to your exciting Rotary journey. He is our 52nd member as of today.

This month's activities focused on the environment that we all share to preserve, let me end my corner with a powerful quote from Ban Ki Moon- " Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all. "

We are privileged as Rotarians to be part of the solution...

Have a great weekend ahead of you!!!



## CLUB SPEAKER'S PROFILE



### Benjamin A. Ventura

OIC, Assistant Regional Director for  
Technical Services | DENR CAR

### Work Experience

#### **OIC, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services**

DENR Regional Office CAR  
March 9, 2023 – to Present

#### **OIC, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services**

DENR Regional Office CAR  
January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

#### **Engineer V, Chief of the Regional Surveys and Mapping Division**

DENR Regional Office CAR  
March 18, 2020 – December 31, 2020

#### **OIC, PENR Officer**

PENRO Abra  
June 26, 2019 – March 17, 2020

#### **Engr. V Chief, Surveys and Mapping Division**

DENR-CAR, Regional Office/Survey and  
Mapping Division  
January 2, 2011 – June 25, 2019 and  
September 23, 2005- August 5,2010

#### **OIC, Regional Technical Director for Lands**

DENR-CAR, Regional Office  
May 8,2010- January 31,2011

#### **Engr. IV**

DENR-CAR Regional Office/Survey and  
Mapping Division  
March 27,2000- September 22, 2005

#### **OIC Chief, Surveys and Mapping Division**

DENR-CAR Regional Office/Survey and  
Mapping Division  
August 12,2001- February 10, 2002

#### **OIC, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services**

DENR Regional Office CAR  
March 9, 2023 – to Present

### Education

#### **Master in Public Administration**

Baguio Central University  
1994-2002

#### **Bachelor of Science in Geodetic Engineering**

Araullo University  
1990-1991

### Civil Service Eligibility

#### **Career Executive Service Eligible**

August 9, 2010

#### **Geodetic Engineer Ra 1080**

August 1992

#### **Junior Geodetic Engineer**

August 1989

#### **Civil Service Professional**

July 1988

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

## THEME

Environment Month



**Sec/PP Baby Kaur**

Secretary / Past President  
Rotary Club of Baguio



## Events and Activities for the Month of April

### 14 April Fireside Chat

Attended by: Pres. Ali, PP Raffy, PP Chris P, PP Bert, PP Marilyn, Sec Baby, Rtn. Lily, Rtn. Elaine, Dir. Tonton, Dir. Reymund & Rtn. Eduard

### 21-23 April DISCON

Attended by: Pres. Ali, PDG Linda, PP Libby, PP Alfred, PP Lani, PP Anet, Dir. Susan, Dir. Lou, PE Cora, Rtn. Elaine, Rtn. Arlene & Sec. Baby

### 25 April Dinner Fellowship with RIPR

Attended by: Pres Ali, PDG Linda, Rtn. Nancy, PP Atom, Rtn. Jeff, Dir. Reymund, Rtn. Eric, Rtn. Saoud, PP Libby, Rtn. Elaine, Rtn. Levy, PP Lani, Dir. Mariver, PP Marilyn, Rtn. Arlene, Rtn. Bess, Dir. Lou, Sec. Baby & PP Veeh

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

24 June

**Year-End Review**

## Attendance Update as of 15 April 2023

Dir. Mariver Agayas, PP Gerard Audineau, PP Veeh Balajo, PP Marilyn Barredo, Dir. Reymund Barrios, PP Raffy Chan, PP Diony Claridad, Rtn. Gab Exibia, PP Chris Faelnar, Sec. Baby Kaur, Rtn. Lily Landayan, PP Alfred Laygo, PP Atom Mendalla, Pres. Ali Morales, PE Cora Ocampo, Rtn. Levy Orcales, Rtn. Elaine Paredes, Rtn. Eduard Ramos, Dir. Tonton Tan, & Dir. Susan Villanueva

WE WISH TO SEE YOU NEXT MEETING

Rtn. Jody Alabanza, Rtn. Nancy Alabanza (mu), Rtn. Bess Aniban (mu), Rtn. Modz Bahul, Rtn. Toni Boguen, PP Jun Bondoc, IPP Arnel Cabanisas, Rtn. Vangie Cacho, Dir. Lorena Cachola, PP Anet Calabias (mu), PP Mia Cawed, Rtn. Ike Dulnoan (exc), PP Lani Fabi (mu), PP Cy Fagar (exc), PP Libby Fernandez (mu), Dir. Glen Flores, Rtn. Eric De Guzman (mu), Dir. Lou De Guzman (mu), Rtn. Jeff Isip (mu), Rtn. Saoud Jawad (mu), Rtn. Ailyn Kindipan, PP Ben Ladilad (exc), PAG. Gigi Maranan, PP Lito Pangilinan (exc), PP Chris Peralta (mu), Rtn. Ruth Rillera, PP Bert Talco (mu), Arlene Sumalag (mu), PP Benny Sunga (exc), VP Joe Ursua, Rtn. Annie Viernes & PDG Linda Winter (mu)

## RI UPCOMING EVENTS

30 April

[Rotary International Convention registrations](#) and [ticket cancellations](#) are due

## April Birthdays

02 Apr PP Marilyn  
06 Apr Rtn. Jeff  
17 Apr Dir. Tonton  
21 Apr PP Atom  
24 Apr PP Veeh  
30 Apr Rtn. Vangie

## April in Rotary

03 PP Lito  
07 PP Bert  
13-1996 PP Chris Faelnar  
18-1998 Rtn. Dwight  
21 PP Anet  
21-2018 PN Susan

## IN RETROSPECT



**Dir. Susan Villanueva**

**Director/PN**  
Rotary Club of Baguio

15 April 2023

President Ali Morales called the meeting to Order at exactly 12:30 noon. Our sexy and lovely program coordinator/greeter PP Atom Mendalla requested everyone to remain standing for the Invocation, which was a touching prayer from PP Gerard Audineau. Then followed by the singing of the national anthem, Rotary Hymn and the 4 Way Test.

PP Atom introduced the dignitaries seated in the presidential table. Other visiting Rotarians introduced were PP Mai Lopez from RC Baguio North, Rotarian Earl Chanfoo from RC Subic and the visitors from our sister club in Antipolo City.

For the entertainment, PP Veeh Balajo presented a movie clip which related much to environment, specifically, waste management.

PP Chris Faelnar led the finest moment and we accumulated the amount of P3,400. The raffle, likewise, earned P650.00.

Our Guest of Honor and Speaker was Ms. Marie Buena Victoria Tenefrancia, a psychologist, educator and Executive Assistant of the Department of Agrarian Reform. She talked about the "sustainable and innovative solutions for our environment". Her presentation was truly educational teaching everyone about proper waste management and the effect of climate change.

The induction of our new member, Frederick Gabriel Exibia followed. Thereafter, birthday greetings were made. President Ali then presented a certificate of award to PP Marilyn Barredo as a member of the End Polio Society.

The meeting was a bit extended and ended at around 4:00 pm as everyone really enjoyed the day.



# SCENES WE LIKE TO SEE

RCB Regular Meeting

15 April 2023





## FEATURED EVENTS

### Certificate of Commendation to RCBaguio

17 April 2023

The City of Baguio presented a Certificate of Commendation to the Rotary Club of Baguio for its contribution to the market rehabilitation which was destroyed during the fire. Flag Raising Ceremony, Baguio City Hall, Baguio City



### Inurement of RAPP Helen Poblador

20 April 2023

RCB members and Rotary Anns attend the Inurement of RAPP Helen Poblador, Ann of former Rotarian Nick Poblador, at Saint Vincent Church, Naguillian Road, Baguio City.





# FEATURED EVENTS

## Cluster 1-C welcomes RIPR Mary Berge and Spouse

## 25 April 2023

Cluster 1-C welcomes RIPR Mary Berge and Spouse, Rotarian Ivar, to the City of Baguio held at Supreme Hotel



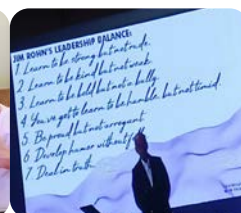


# FEATURED EVENTS

DISCON - Day 1

21 April 2023

Reconnecting, new and familiar faces, sharing and comparing notes, warm hugs, firm handshakes, beso besos, inspiring talks... Happy to know - we are all one believing that ROTARY IS LIFE!





# FEATURED EVENTS

DISCON - Day 2

22 April 2023



DISCON - Day 3

23 April 2023





# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PAGE

## Rotary projects around the globe – April 2023

By Brad Webber

### United States

Members of the Rotary Club of Kaka'ako Eco, Hawaii, tossed 5,000 mud balls filled with beneficial organisms into the Ala Wai Canal in Waikiki as part of a rehabilitation effort to make the waterway fishable and swimmable. The healthy bacteria in the genki balls — made with soil, molasses, rice bran, and water — digest and oxygenate sludge at the bottom of the canal (genki means healthy in Japanese). In March 2022, more than 200 volunteers, including club members and friends, made the balls, advised by the [Genki Ala Wai Project](#). Three weeks later, they threw the fermented genki balls into the waterway. Donors paid \$5 per ball to defray some of the cost. "A lot of kids came out and we had canoes come through the canal to help throw the balls," says Club President Jenny Do. "We blew the air horn and then hundreds of balls just went into the Ala Wai Canal."



### Canada

Guelph, Ontario, is one of 25 Canadian municipalities to sign a pledge with the United Nations refugee agency, [UNHCR](#), to welcome people who have fled countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine. In December, the Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium launched a drive to collect winter clothing donations for refugees. "People were so generous," says Club President Anne Day. The club placed a bin at a mall, and donors loaded it up with more than 70 coats, 109 hats, and 52 scarves — many of them with the price tags still attached. The club also teamed up with appliance company Danby to collect furniture and household equipment for the newcomers.

### Italy

The Rotaract Club of Milano Nord Est Brera collaborated with an art publisher to produce a book of photography featuring women who have had breast cancer surgery to put a face to the fight against the disease. "With body painting they show that the scars have been overcome while remaining part of their history," says club member Stefano Mercuri. "The project was aimed at them rediscovering the beauty that comes from art, even starting from a scar." The club worked with the artist Stefano Pelloni, whose style is based on tribal body



painting, and Il Randagio Edizioni, a book company that uses environmentally friendly materials. The club printed a limited-edition run of 500 books and is selling them to raise funds for the Italian branch of the [Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation](#).

### United Kingdom

One coin at a time, a whimsical contraption celebrates a legendary Scottish locomotive while raising thousands of dollars for charity. Ken Wilson, a past president of the Rotary Club of Inverness Loch Ness, led the effort to commission and install the Flying Scotsman Automata in a local shopping center in 2016. A contribution of about \$1 activates the complex mechanism, which depicts a kilted train conductor in an engine on a track trailed by bobbing carriages. Inside are characters that include a couple knitting and drinking tea, a pilot flying a plane, and Nessie, of course, whose tail spins to the musical accompaniment. The club has maintained the device and collected about \$27,000, allowing it to disburse more than \$350 in grants each month. "It has enabled Rotary Loch Ness to help nearly 60 local charities," says the mall's former manager, Jackie Cuddy, "which is amazing."



### Uganda

When the Rotary Club of Malta constructed its second primary school in Uganda, it made sure to consider the needs of menstruating girls in the design of washroom facilities. "Very often, girls are embarrassed to attend school due to the lack of these facilities, and their attendance, and therefore education, suffers," says John de Giorgio, club member and past governor of District 2110. The construction of the school in Luwero District was carried out in partnership with the Rotary Club of Bwebajja, which "played an active part in the supervision of the project during construction, carrying out many on-site visits," de Giorgio says. The Malta club spent about \$60,000 on the project, and the Maltese government covered more than half the cost of the \$140,000 school. In 2014, the club built another school on the Lake Victoria island of Nkose.



This story originally appeared in the April 2023 issue of [Rotary](#) magazine.

Source: <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-projects-around-globe-april-2023>





#### EIC/PP Libby Fernandez

Editor-in-Chief / Past President  
Rotary Club of Baguio

By Orly Halpern

For centuries, the Yörük people of southern Turkey have trekked up and down the rugged Taurus Mountains. When the hot Mediterranean summer begins to dry out the vegetation that feeds their sheep and goats, Yörük families migrate with their animals to the grassy highlands. Then, just before the first snows, they return to spend the cooler season farming in the coastal plains. They eat what they grow, and at outdoor markets, they sell honey, goat milk and cheeses, livestock, and the bright wool kilim rugs they make.

Today, many Yörüks have settled in coastal cities, where five-star hotels and the turquoise waters of the "Turkish Riviera" draw the tourists who help support the regional economy. Mehmet Bodur was one of them. He had worked about 25 years as a mechanic in the popular coastal city of Manavgat. But in 2004, he and his wife, Gulsen, moved with their two sons into the foothills of the Taurus Mountains to the small village of Bucakşeyhler, nestled among fragrant forests of pine and cedar, a half-hour drive from the coast but a world away.

There, they built a wooden house with a small auto repair garage on land Mehmet inherited from his father. They planted avocados and, like their elders, raised goats. They sold the milk and avocados at a twice weekly bazaar to supplement their modest pension. By the summer of 2021, they had invested their savings in hundreds of chickens, expanding their small business enterprise. And their younger son, Can, was about to get married at a pretty riverside restaurant just below the village. They had already bought the bride's dress and the groom's suit.

"Life was really good," Gulsen Bodur says wistfully one day last fall, standing where her home once stood. "But the fire ruined everything."

The summer of 2021 was, at the time, the warmest on record in Europe, with a potential all-time high of 119 degrees Fahrenheit recorded in Sicily. Along the Mediterranean, drought desiccated vegetation and turned it into fuel for fires — conditions that researchers have found are generally growing more extreme and more common because of a changing climate. Wildfires swept through Spain, Italy, Greece, Algeria, and Turkey. On 28 July, a fire started near Manavgat and, fed by strong winds, quickly spread through villages and into the mountains. It became the worst wildfire season on record in Turkey.

For days, firefighters and residents battled more than

200 blazes that turned forests to ash, darkened the skies, destroyed homes, and killed livestock. With temperatures around 100 degrees, water from hoses seemed to almost instantly



evaporate. Thousands of residents and tourists were evacuated, many by sea. While on beaches not under immediate threat, there were surreal scenes of sunbathers reclining before a horizon glowing an eerie orange. By the time the smoke cleared, at least nine people had died, hundreds of homes and other structures were destroyed, and thousands of farm animals were killed. More than 470 square miles (1,200 square kilometers) of pine forest turned into a blackened wasteland. Manavgat district was the worst hit.

Out in the villages, the fire swept in before most were awake. It was about 5 a.m. and Gulsen Bodur, who is in her 60s, slept fitfully in the suffocating heat. Her older son slept on the balcony, unable to bear it inside. Suddenly, he woke his family, shouting, "There's a fire, there's a fire! Let's go or we will burn!"

"We were in our pajamas," Bodur recalls, her voice breaking. "We just changed our clothes and rushed out. We didn't think we would lose everything." Outside, they watched towering flames engulf trees. The fire burned so intensely among the trees it sent pine cones flying at them "like bullets," she says. Not knowing what to take, she grabbed three chickens and stuffed them into a bag. (They suffocated.) They rushed to their cars and sped out of the village through the smoke and flames to Manavgat. Across their village, some 60 other families were facing the same horror, the same fateful decisions, and the prospect that this disaster would take more than their livelihoods.

Around the world, a changing climate is not just wreaking economic and physical damage; it's adding to factors imperiling centuries-old ways of life and identities. That's especially true for Indigenous populations that depend on the natural environment, from Sami reindeer herders in Finland, Norway, and Sweden grappling with the loss of food sources for their animals to groups of people living in the Himalayas where the shrinking of glaciers has disrupted the seasonal flow of water they depend on. In Turkey, Rotary clubs helping with fire recovery came to realize that a meaningful response was about more than satisfying immediate needs and even restoring livelihoods; it was about helping preserve culture and social identity. To assist villagers with what they said they needed most, the Rotary members mounted an extraordinary campaign involving dozens of Turkish clubs, districts, and [The Rotary Foundation](#).

In those frantic first days, Kemal Ketrez, then governor

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PAGE

### A warming world adds peril for a way of life

of District 2430, which includes areas along Turkey's Mediterranean coast, remembers sending a short urgent message to a WhatsApp group of club presidents: "There is a disaster in Manavgat. We must help." They coordinated the purchase of items published on a government disaster committee list, things like burn cream, shirts, boots, bottled water, socks, and tents for the people fighting the fires. Ketrez opened a bank account to receive donations from clubs in the district. They provided fire brigades with chainsaws and a generator. They collected school supplies for children, along with appliances, clothing, and household goods for those who would need to rebuild.

Several weeks after the fires, it was clear to the clubs that they needed to do more to support long-term recovery, especially for villagers outside the coastal cities. Altan Arslan, a member of the Rotary Club of Ankara-Kizilay and a past governor of the district, proposed mounting a larger campaign with the support of The Rotary Foundation. Ketrez appointed Murat Sidar and Ayhan Gedikoğlu, members of the Rotary Club of Alanya, to the disaster committee and charged them with finding out what the villagers needed. They learned that people were desperate to replace lost livestock: goats, bees, and chickens.



With a Rotary Foundation global grant funded in part by donations from 23 clubs and nine districts, the effort raised nearly \$100,000 to supply about 100 families across the Taurus Mountains with goats and honeybees. The Rotary Club of Lidingö Milles, Sweden, signed on as the international partner. Clubs and districts as far away as Denmark, Germany, and Korea also donated money. But first, the club members had to locate the goats, going to seven farms. "It's so hard to find 324 goats at the same time," Arslan says. "We are businesspeople. We had no experience dealing with goats."

By 12 August, the fires were out. That day, Mehmet Bodur and his sons went back to see the village. "They wouldn't let me come with them," Gulsen Bodur says, her hair pulled back and partially covered by a brown and white headscarf tied loosely at her shoulders. "They said it would make me feel bad." Indeed, nothing remained. The family lost its home and everything in it, as well as a livelihood. The equipment in the garage, the goats and chickens that burned, the avocado orchard — everything was charred. "We were left with only the clothes on our backs," she says, her voice trembling with emotion.

Bodur, who wears a blue T-shirt and loose polka dot pants, looks weary, although she has little to do. Initially, she and

her family stayed with her in-laws in Manavgat city. But she and her husband moved back to the land and have lived in a government-supplied trailer for more than a year, while the government builds them a new home.

The government began constructing homes for those who could pay back one-third of the cost, but it takes over a year, and the family had no means of making a living — until the Rotary clubs stepped in.

Bodur walks past the skeleton of a burned tractor wagon lying lamely to one side, toward a pen next to the unfinished concrete house the government is building. She picks up a bunch of long green grasses along the way. The land is regenerating, but it will take 20 years for pine trees to grow back. As she approaches the fence, five young long-haired, long-eared Damascus goats scamper over to her. She drops the grass over the fence, and they begin to chomp happily. She smiles. She received the goats last spring through the global grant-funded project.

Damascus goats lactate for longer periods and yield more milk than the more common local breed. Each goat can bring in about 3,600 liras (close to \$200) a month in milk. And within a few years, six animals can become 30 and provide for a family. "I hope the goats will have many babies soon and they will bring me extra income," she says on that warm October day.

To identify the neediest families, Rotary members had to delve into government livestock license and veterinary records and solicit help from agricultural agencies. When reaching out, they discovered some potential aid recipients were hesitant, wary of fraudsters who prey on disaster victims, says Ayfer Öz, president of the Rotary Club of Manavgat. Some had already started working in tourism because it made more money. Some didn't want to see animals anymore after the fires; it would make them too sad. Others felt too old to begin again and take care of animals.

For some of the Rotarians contacting people, the effort was personal.



Ersin Körhasanoğulları is past president of the Rotary Club of Anamur, where numerous Yörük beekeepers lost their hives when the fires reached the highlands. He is an electrical engineer who also runs a family agricultural company. His family is originally Yörük too. "My great grandfather was a Yörük. He traveled with donkeys from the lowlands to the highlands and back," says Körhasanoğulları. "We want the Yörük to stay here, to



### A warming world adds peril for a way of life

keep their traditional lifestyles. But some, including the youth, go to Antalya city and work in tourism. Some grow strawberries or work in the packing industry. Year after year the Yörük tradition is ending."

Ali Ozturk is among the beekeepers struggling to carry on. When he got the call from Rotary members that they could replace his lost bees, he was in his tent in the Eynif valley in the highlands, where he lives with his wife during the warm season. "I was so happy I almost cried," he says.

His other home, a permanent house, and his orchard in Salur, deep in the mountains, burned down in the fire. Like many semi-nomadic Yörüks, he had no deed to the land, so the government would not build him a house or give him a trailer. In the meantime, his children are living with his mother in the village of Yeniköy, close to Manavgat, and going to a school nearby.

Ozturk is a quiet, stocky man in his late 30s with a ruddy complexion and graying hair. He's standing in a wide plateau up in the highlands flanked by bushy pine trees that still stand green and alive. There, raised off the ground by a wooden plank set on stones, sit long rows of beehive boxes. Nine have covers with the Rotary logo.

"We really needed more bees for selling honey and for fertilizing the almonds," he says. He has started buying and planting new almond trees. His income from the honey goes toward daily living costs. Raising his goats has gotten more expensive because of the fires, he notes, and he was forced to sell some of them. "There are no more branches and bushes left to feed the goats," he says, "so I need to take them by truck to a shepherd who cares for them." Adding to his challenges, bears looking for food in the scarred landscape sometimes steal the honey his bees produce, he says. Still, he's optimistic. "Someday, I will return to my hometown in Salur," he says with conviction.

The road leading down the mountain from Ozturk's highlands encampment passes a cliff overlooking a valley. The vantage point reveals the startling destruction. Blackened trees stand forlorn, their burned trunks exposed with bare branches. "Before, it was only green forest all the way to the horizon," says Ekrem Uyanik of the Manavgat Rotary club, pointing to a house in the distance. "You couldn't even see that house because of the height of the trees. You couldn't see anything but green. This was one of the greenest places in Turkey." Yet there are signs of hope and beauty. New green growth dots the scorched land. And one occasionally glimpses the wild horses that gallop over the plateaus, as if in a mirage.

The summer of 2022 was another season of deadly wildfires in Europe and around the Mediterranean. The UK declared a drought in parts of the country, and some water companies banned the use of hoses for things like watering gardens. Both France and Italy reported their second-hottest summer since records began more than a century ago. Europe's great rivers, including the Danube

and the Loire, ran low.

Besides increasing the risk of fires, climate change is affecting life in other ways. As temperatures rise, snow melts sooner, resulting in less water available during the summer months. In Turkey, the heat arrives sooner each year, so the Yörük people need to migrate to the high plateaus earlier, which can interrupt children's schooling. The slow recovery of the hillsides is leaving less land for grazing, as government officials seek to prevent herders from bringing livestock into areas of young, regenerating forest, which can take decades to mature. That also stresses the Yörüks' bees, which rely on pine trees for food.

Tourism quickly recovered and has been largely unaffected by the fires, even in the scarred mountain foothills in places like Green Canyon reservoir, where tourists continue to take boat rides and enjoy fish lunches. But the tourism economy does little for the Yörüks and other rural villagers.



In a building with a clay oven built into a wall, 59-year-old Yeter Tasbas sits on the floor in front of a low wooden table, stretching balls of dough with a long, thin rolling pin. With one graceful move, she transfers a paper-thin circle into the oven. She works with three other women, her neighbors in the village of Belenköy.

Her family's wooden home on the edge of the village burned in the fires. The family had a barn for its four goats and 30 chickens. Today, where the home once stood is a flattened piece of land covered with dry weeds. The family has been unable to rebuild because of a dispute with her husband's siblings, who share ownership of the land. "We built our house with our own hands," she says through tears. "We put so much effort into it. After we lost it and didn't get support from my husband's siblings — all of this is too much for me."

Through the Rotary project, they received six goats. She keeps them in her neighbors' barn in exchange for caring for their goats as well. The goats provide comfort and hope. "It relaxes me to take care of them," she says. "I love hugging the baby goats." She hopes the income from selling the milk will help her to eat better. Her family only eats meat during holidays, when generous neighbors provide it. And, of course, she hopes to earn enough to one day rebuild her home. For now, that hope is enough to keep the family going.

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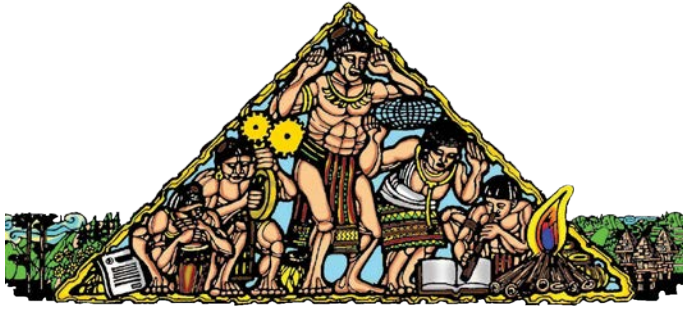
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## THE CAÑAO EMBLEM

Our Official Club Bulletin has been called The Cañao. "Cañao" (pronounced as kan-yau) is actually the local term for the dance during native feasts or celebrations in the highlands of the Cordilleras- in Northern Luzon of the Philippines.

This is depicted in our Cañao emblem which shows a number of human figures in deep concentration—absorbed in ritual dance.

The attention, focus, commitment and unity of the club's members is represented by the dancing figures—in celebration or expectation of a bountiful harvest; much as we actually do—in anticipation of the joy derived from public service to the community—always coupled with fellowship. Hence, the sub-title of "A Celebration of Service."



# Rotary Club of Baguio

## THE RCB LOGO

The Rotary Club of Baguio (RCB) was chartered on 21 February 1938. The 4,587th member of Rotary International and the oldest club organized North of Manila; the 6th chartered Rotary Club in the entire Philippines.

Our over-simplified club logo (red) is a composite of the letters r, c & B; this is symbolic of the club's straightforwardness. Over-all cardioid-heart shape connotes that our members serve from the heart. The four basic elements (four quadrants— now 3D bevelled) are symbolic of Rotary's Four-Way Test and the members' commitment to it. Our charter year of 1938 is used as the mid-focal point of the logo, to emphasize our early beginnings and continuing dedication to

*Service Above Self.*



Baguio City, Philippines

R.I. District 3790, Club No. 16863  
Chartered on 21 February 1938

CP No.: 0917-323-8985 (Pres. Ali)  
CP No.: 0917-510-3955 (PP / EIC Libby)

RCB Website: [rcbaguio.org](http://rcbaguio.org)  
E-mail: [RCBaguio1938@gmail.com](mailto:RCBaguio1938@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [@rotaryclubbaguio](https://www.facebook.com/@rotaryclubbaguio)

The Cañao Website: [canao.rcbaguio.org](http://canao.rcbaguio.org)  
The Cañao E-mail: [canao@rcbaguio.org](mailto:canao@rcbaguio.org)

## EIC/PP Elizabeth Fernandez

The Cañao, Editor-in-Chief  
E-mail: [RCBaguio1938@gmail.com](mailto:RCBaguio1938@gmail.com)

## PP Raffy Chan

Adviser

## Youichi Tanaka

The Cañao, Graphic Designer  
E-mail: [youichigtanaka@gmail.com](mailto:youichigtanaka@gmail.com)