

Future Vision: Report from a Pilot District Club.

The Rotary Club of Hillcrest is a small 20 member club in D9270 situated 40kms inland from Durban and bordering the tribal communities of Kwa Zulu – Natal where most of its projects are directed.

Before D9270 was selected as one of the Pilot Districts for Future Vision, it was very much a host district for matching grants and the Rotary Club of Hillcrest ran at a maximum of 5 matching grants virtually all the time, with strong relationships being established worldwide with sponsoring Rotary districts, Rotary clubs and individuals.

During the Pilot period the matching grants ran their course and were closed off, during which period the Rotary Club of Hillcrest re-directed its attention towards District and Global grants and duly qualified for Future Vision participation.

After an initial skirmish with the new on-line Global Grants system which was also finding its feet, the matching grants experts gave way to the electronic communications experts, but still the intended communications escaped both senders and receivers grasp.

Meanwhile the District Grants went ahead, but as 'receivers' with up front demands on every cent we can raise, the District Grants fell far short of demand both in value and frequency.

In summary, the Rotary Club of Hillcrest, Its beneficiaries and even its benefactors have 'missed out' on 'doing good in the world' for the past two and a half years or so and is unlikely to return to its former level of operation in the near future.

Based on previous performances, the Rotary Club of Hillcrest would have expended in the region of \$40,000 (R340,000) grant money per annum.

Excluding the matching grants which were already in place, grant funding under the Future Vision system has dropped to less than \$2,000 (R17,000) during the Pilot period.

Perhaps the obvious conclusion drawn from the above summary, is that the Rotary Club of Hillcrest failed to keep ahead of events. This however should be considered in context:

- The Strategic Plan and Future Vision were implemented at the same time in the Pilot Districts requiring total change and re-education, whilst running their existing grants and projects.
- It was a learning period for individuals, clubs, districts and the Rotary Foundation.
- Whilst excellent performance measuring criteria were advanced for grant control, no similar criteria were applied to Pilot Districts and Clubs for reporting back on the Pilot scheme and change over is set for 1st July 2013, irrespective of what the Pilot Scheme revealed.
- Our District Grants are insufficient to meet the requirements of the clubs.

In conclusion: The Strategic Plan and Future Vision is the way to go but needs a settling period to replace the learning curve that was missed by not phasing in the various requirements.

The Rotary Club of Hillcrest
D9270