

COOLAMON HOUSE HOUT BAY SOUTH AFRICA

By John Glassford Coolamon Rotary Club

This is a brief history of how Coolamon House in Hout Bay near Cape Town was built. We know that a few people from Coolamon have been there especially Coolamon Rotarians.

In 2002 Susan and John Glassford went to Cape Town to attend a housing and building convention Africa. Here we met a Dutch lady who wanted a straw bale orphanage built in one of the townships, Mfuleni, in Cape Town.

The straw bale orphanage was for 86 orphans as a result of HIV/AIDS, however it did not get off the ground but it is here that we realised that we had to do something for the AIDS orphans of Mfuleni. John approached his hockey friends in Sydney and raised \$1,000 from a former player that John coached, Nuncio D'Angelo, a partner of a large law firm in Sydney, Nuncio is Head of Banking & Finance at Norton Rose Fulbright Australia. With the \$1,000 Nuncio gave us we approached many charities. To no avail.

John met with Past President David Benn from Wollundry Rotary Club at the 2002 International Straw Bale Conference that Susan and John organised and hosted in Ganmain and at the CSU in Wagga. David Benn was impressed with our story and suggested that John join Rotary, so David introduced John to Grahame Miles and he was invited to join Coolamon Rotary.

It was in 2005 that Susan and John returned to Hout Bay via Chicago's Rotary Convention. It was in 2005 that Coolamon and Hout Bay became Centennial twin Rotary clubs. We then started the main project of raising funds to build and refurbish an AIDS and TB Clinic, which has since become a model for South African Health.

Coolamon House, as it is known in Hout Bay, is in honour of our Rotary club, and was opened in 2013. Our club project **Road MAPS to Africa**, raised approx. \$US 100,000 or 1 million South African Rand, for the clinic in Hout Bay. This included a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant for US\$22,000.

All these funds were raised from sponsors and donors from many Rotary clubs in our Rotary District 9700. The sponsorship was for the Mount Kilimanjaro climb in 2007 and the Mountains of the Moon climb in 2011 in Uganda.

We are happy to say that every day Coolamon House saves lives of the residents of Hout Bay's settlement Imizamo Yethu.

You can learn more here on our web site.

[COOLAMON HOUSE STORY](#)





The Kili 2007 Team at Hout Bay Atlantic Yacht Club where Hout Bay Rotary meet every Tuesday. JG with the PHF that Hout Bay RC awarded him. Also in the pic are Patrick McLaughlin and Anna and Patrick Johnston all from Hout Bay.