



HOWZAT!



The Rotary Club of Newlands
The Club that Appeals



PRESIDENT	TERRY LANCASTER
Editor	Janey Ball
Email	howzat@newlands.org.za
Website	www.newlands.org.za
Facebook	www.facebook.com/NewlandsRotary



Apologies before 10:00 on a Monday to Heidi Andersson, please.

COMMENT: Could this Virus Guide Us to the Healing of our World (Joe Kitchen)

Perhaps, just perhaps, this is the turning point which this planet, this corner of creation, this tiny little sphere of light in a vast and dark universe, has been waiting for.

Mother Earth is sick.

Mother Earth has been sick for a long time.

Mother Earth is suffering from a wheezing cough because she cannot breathe.

Mother Earth has a temperature; she is heating up with fever.

This fever, this disease, is not her fault. It was given to her by us.

That is why she is sad.

She has been sad for a long time.

Confined to herself in seeming isolation, unable to reach out and talk to the people who have made her so ill.

Because the people would not listen.

The people would not even listen to their own scientists and wise men.

Oh, many scientists and wise men have warned us, the children of Mother Earth.

The poets, too. The poets have beseeched us not to treat our Mother with such callousness.

The poets warned of the dire consequences we would face if we did not heed the warnings.

This is no upwardly mobile freeway, the poets and the singers said. This is the road to hell.

We're on a road to nowhere, the poets say.

And still the people refused to pay attention to the messages.

"I'm walking through the cities of the plague," Bob Dylan sang. "Ain't talking, just walkin'."

So, eventually, Mother Earth stopped trying to speak through the scientists and the singers.

It was her own children who had made her sick. So Mother Earth turned our children against us, so that we could learn what it felt like to be attacked by one's own children.

"How dare you?" the children asked their parents. "How dare you?" the children asked the leaders of the world.

But the parents and the leaders of the world just carried on with their destructive ways. They burned down the forests of the Amazon. They filled the bellies of ocean creatures with plastic. They forced farm animals to breed in close proximity, dosing them with antibiotics when they got sick. They murdered the gigantic whales of the deep and they destroyed the habitats of the ice bears and the big apes.

They did that. We did that.

All of us who did not speak up against these crimes were, in effect, guilty. We were guilty because we loved our comforts and our money and our cell phones more than we loved the earth.

Yet mankind did not listen to their children, either.

That was the moment – the earth-shattering moment, pun intended – when Mother Earth had finally had enough, and lost her temper.

First, she burned up Australia. Then she rained hurricanes all over America. She sent earthquakes, mudslides, droughts and floods.

Still mankind carried on doing what they had always done.

She pelted us with asteroids causing them to narrowly miss us. She thought that the danger of asteroids would wake us up and make us realise how vulnerable we were, how exposed to the random fluctuations of the universe.

Protected by this layer of atmosphere, a layer as thin as a potato peel, we felt sheltered from the realities of outer space, protected and secure in our arrogance and digital self-absorption.

Until the virus came.

A virus which just happens to exactly replicate the very symptoms Mother Earth is suffering from right now: fever, shortness of breath, fatigue and pain.

It took such a drastic step to make men look up from their phones and say, "What's this?"

It took just one tiny little monster creature, the shape of a spiky soccer ball, to cause mankind to come to their collective sense.

"The world is waking up," a 16-year-old child told us less than a year ago. "The world is waking up," she told the leaders of the world, "and change is coming, whether you like it or not."

The world is waking up indeed.

It is not a pleasant awakening.

It is a waking that is accompanied by the worst hangover the human race has ever experienced; a hangover caused by centuries of excess, pointless warfare and strife, selfishness and greed.

But at least it is an awakening. And it's happening now.

Not a moment too soon.

Thank you, Mother Earth, thank you for your tough love parenting.

Thank you for sending us to our rooms to think about what we'd done.

Perhaps, just perhaps, this is the turning point which this planet, this corner of creation, this tiny little sphere of light in a vast and dark universe, has been waiting for.

Perhaps this is, as a poet once said, "the mother-and-child-reunion", the reckoning, the reconciliation and, eventually, the healing of our world. DM

Ed: This article was first published online in The Daily Maverick, 26 March, 2020

FUTURE FIXTURES

MARCH: WATER and SANITATION MONTH

30 Extraordinary Meeting ([here.....](#))

APRIL: MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH MONTH

6 Partners' Meeting
13 No Meeting (Family Day)
15 Board Meeting
20 Business Meeting
27 No Meeting (Freedom Day)

MAY: YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

4 Partners' Meeting and Youth Evening
11 Ordinary Meeting : Feedback on India Friendship Exchange
18 Ordinary Meeting
20 Board Meeting
25 Business Meeting

JUNE: ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

1 Partners' Meeting
8 Ordinary Meeting
15 Ordinary Meeting
17 Board Meeting
22 Business Meeting
29 Ordinary Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Panthera Africa Friend,

As much as we would love to celebrate our five-year anniversary through our StarDust event on 1 April 2020, we've had to postpone it because of the coronavirus restrictions. We pray that the virus will soon pass and our hearts go out to all those affected. We will let you know as soon as we have set a new date for our event.

If you bought tickets to the fundraiser we are happy to refund you – or should you wish, you are welcome to donate the money towards us. Please let us know what you would prefer by emailing us on info@pantherafrica.com

In the meantime, we continue to focus on keeping our cats safe and protected. As you know, we are a non-profit sanctuary and rely on tourism and donations from our supporters. The Covid-19 lockdown ordered by the President Ramaphosa has forced us to close our doors to volunteers and tourists for the time-being – which has affected our funds negatively.

Without our team of volunteers, our staff will have to work extra hard to take care of our big cats. They are incredibly supportive, and we are extremely grateful for their dedication and love for the cause.

The only way we can make up for the loss of support from tourists because of the travel bans is through you – our most valued friends. Today we reach out to you – from the depths of our hearts – to tell you that we need your help more than ever. Please support us during this difficult time and donate

what you can, to help carry us through this time, until we are ready to welcome back tourists and volunteers. To see the different options of donating please visit <https://pantherafrica.com/donate/>.

As a close member of our pride, the support you offer today will go a long way.

With deep gratitude

Cathrine and Lizaene
Co-founders

UMPIRES and SCORERS

	30 March 2020 <i>Extraordinary</i> 😊	6 April 2020 <i>Partners</i>	13 April 2020 <i>Ordinary</i>
Sergeant	Geraldine Nicol	Ian Pursch	
Four-Way Test	Graham Finlayson	Glynis Menné-Hart	
Grace and Loyal Toast	John Winship	Jamie Hart	Watch
Attendance	Heidi Andersson	Lew Botha	this
Fellowship	Mike Walwyn	Tony Davidson	Spot!
Minutes	Vanessa Rousseau	Melinda Stapleton	
Intro speaker			
Thank speaker			
Comment	Jana Forrester	Pieter van Aswegen	



WOODEN SPOON

Henry Campbell



OFFICE BEARERS

President	Terry Lancaster	Environment	Tony Davidson
President-Elect	Jenny Ibbotson	International Service	Jenny Ibbotson
Secretary	Janey Ball	Membership	Graham Finlayson
Treasurer	Peter Ennis	New Generations	Vanessa Rousseau
Club Services	Heidi Anderson	Public Image	Shelley Finch
Community Service	Corinne Hudson	Rotary Foundation	Mike Walwyn
Entrepreneurial	John Stephenson	Vocational Service	Jeannine Ibbotson

QUOTE of the WEEK

“What if everything we’ve been told about human nature is wrong, and we’re actually very generous, communitarian, altruistic beings who are distorted by the system we are in but not made happy by it? What if we can actually be better people in a better world?”
 - Rebecca Solnit -

AND the LAST WORD

