



HOWZAT!



The Rotary Club of Newlands
The Club that Appeals



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

COMMENT: A WEDDING in the TIME of COVID (Melinda Stapleton)

In these strange times, the world appears to be so dry of joy and it seems quite hard to find. I witnessed something magical this week.

This coming Saturday, my daughter was to be a bridesmaid to a young woman who has been a friend of hers since the first day of high school.

They are now 31. The wedding was cancelled. The disappointment was huge.

Travel plans for those family and friends from near and far were cancelled.

This young couple are both doctors in the employment of the government, so they are in the frontline of this pandemic. As May arrived they had a rethink and decided they were going to go ahead with their nuptials and have another celebration on a future date. The planning went into full gear & they sourced a kind magistrate who would do all the legal stuff with all Covid 19 requirements taken care of. As May progressed, there were some setbacks as the young woman was tested for Covid 19, but thankfully it was negative and then it was full steam ahead with the 'wedding'.

My daughter obtained a guest list from the unsuspecting groom and set about writing a poem of over 70 lines, so each guest could say a line of the poem, and film themselves saying it. These were then compiled into one cohesive message from the wedding guests in the form of a 4-minute video. A lot of work! A new dress was bought, as the wedding dress lies unfinished in a dressmaker's sewing room somewhere, flowers were bought for a small bouquet, and the bridesmaids, those in Cape Town, bought a gift and made a carrot cake decorated with white flowers.

On Thursday morning, they arrived bright and early to the park opposite our home in Newlands, where my daughter, borrowing her father's fancy camera, took some wedding pictures of them. The bride looked radiant in the light blue dress and groom looked handsome. I watched for a little while and it was just so joyful. A few people who were out for their morning walk all smiled and remarked on how happy they were to see such joy. The present and cake were received with a great deal of squealing and delight!

The two of them were legally married in the Cape Town Magistrates Court with two court officials as witnesses mid-morning. In the evening, the happy couple read vows to each other, witnessed in a Zoom celebration with close friends and family where said poem-video was played, much to their joy and surprise.

A truly happy day in an otherwise bleak world.

MINUTES of the ONLINE ORDINARY MEETING, 18th MAY 2020

Scribe: Ian Pursch

The Newlands new-normal weekly digital gathering got off to a gentle start as members slowly arranged their 'I's and 'O's into acceptable rows and were transported Zoomwards. Our Sergeant, Wendy, arrived in the nick of time by cellular telephone and remained in audio-only format, with a decidedly dodgy connection, for most of the evening.

President Terry, in the absence of any guests, contented himself with a welcome to the attending Newrots. Jeannine bravely attempted the Four-Way Test from memory and very nearly got it right. Shelley, dodging her task of providing a grace, supplied a list of appropriate toasts and a variety of suspicious-looking beverages were sipped in response. (Has anybody other than John Biesman-Simons and Richard Burnett got any wine left?)

The imaginary spoon was passed by Jeannine to Chris Beech, a worthy recipient, and the wine swindle was sadly missed (especially by your scribe who, refusing to open his last two treasured wine bottles, has explored his drinks cabinet and moved steadily downhill as ingredients have run out: from gin and tonic to vodka and dry vermouth; then vodka flavoured with Pimms No.1; now Tequila with Grenadine and water. The rum will be a last resort...).

In lieu of a visiting speaker three members then gave us some insight into themselves under the worrying title supplied by Janey of "the Secret Lives of Rotarians":

- Your scribe explained that he had no secrets, after a few years in a bank, going to sea, attending hotel school, working in hotel management and then spending his last 25 years before retiring in contract catering management. He chose instead to describe the five years in which he worked as a Purser on Union-Castle Mail Ships during the 1970s. This was intended to be accompanied by a slick slide show of pictures taken at the time but, being derailed by technical screen-sharing issues, most of Ian's presentation comprised of vague waffling instead.
- Lew Botha had the advantage of having led far more interesting life: From the Eastern Cape and Grey High School he was Quartermaster of a kilted Regiment, studied law at Rhodes and was admitted as an attorney in 1971. During nine months touring Europe and North America, via Iceland, he met Hilary in 1972. After a brief stint in Australia, he practiced law in Cape Town, then with his brother in PE. Further study gave him a BA Hons in Geography and, back in CT, a Master's in Environmental Science, leading to him establishing the first environmental law consultancy in South Africa from which he retired in 2014. Working with clients such as mines, smelters and refineries, coal-fired power stations as well as manufacturers of various products including motor vehicles, tyres, beer and soft drinks, paper and cardboard and pharmaceuticals from various countries, the consultancy provided ways to identify which aspects of their operations impacted on the environment and advice on applicable legislation.
- John Stephenson gave an equally compelling talk: Also from the Eastern Cape, born in Cradock in 1955, with school and university in Grahamstown, he spent two years in the SANDF before teaching in Port Elizabeth for three years. Employed by Nestle in Durban in 1983, he then transferred to their head office in

Johannesburg to take up a marketing position. In 1990 he very sensibly moved his family to Cape Town to take up a marketing position with Federal Marine and continued in marketing in the fishing industry until retiring from the Oceana Group two years ago since travelling overland in Southern Africa and overseas visiting family.

John concluded by listing the following memorable experiences:

- I. unusual – singing soprano in the Grahamstown cathedral choir;
- II. risky – attending illegal student meeting to hear Steve Biko;
- III. dangerous – part of a military convoy to Jamba in Southern Angola;
- IV. exciting – flying over Victoria Falls in flood;
- V. best – being present at both his daughters' births.

Richard Burnett then told us of a satellite club on his doorstep in Yzerfontein (I think – it was at this point that I suddenly remembered that I was supposed to be doing the minutes and I was scrambling for my pen).

President Terry, slightly miffed at Wendy's suggestion that he might also have a "spot" for us, launched into his slot after re-naming it as his "closing address":

- There had been a very good on-line POETS, with a great address from the incoming RI President. RI spent impressive amounts of charitable money last year and produced an equally impressive number of volunteer hours. (Your scribe failed to jot down the actual amounts until it was too late.)
- Next year's District Conference is to be at Oudtshoorn.
- Our incoming AG is Lizelle De Wet.
- A board meeting was to be held in the coming week and insurance issues affecting our work with youth would be discussed.
- President-Elect Jenny I's induction would be a virtual affair. In response to questioning, Pres T agreed that it could be black tie, but noted that trousers were optional for male Rotarians. Your scribe has no idea how this dress code will affect attire for the ladies.

There being no 'happy rands', fines or further business, the meeting was closed by Sergeant Wendy with an instruction for Newrots to check their own duties for next week in Howzat.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



LETTER to the EDITOR

Lew Botha writes:

I have been thinking about a “follow on” from my talk to the Club last Monday and how to demonstrate to our members, in some form, the type of environmental aspects and impacts that I had to consider and address for my clients – and that we should all have to consider. I, then, remembered the film *The Story of Stuff*.

It is a short (20-minute) film released in December 2007 which is well worth watching for some basic issues (bearing in mind, however, that it is USA-focused and that some terms are a little dated – e.g. she alludes to the concept of the “circular” economy but does not call it as such). I think that all Rotarians should also be encouraged to watch this film as it highlights the issue of over-consumption – one of the main driving forces, if not the driving force, undermining environmental sustainability and resulting in our Climate and Lifestyle Crises. Here is the [link](#).

CLUB CORRESPONDENCE

PP Don Peters writes to President Terry:

I write on behalf of the Hout Bay Rotary Club President, Athol Rice, the Treasurer Rtn Denise Hopkins and the convenor of the Hout Bay marshal manpower PP Keith Bull to thank the Newlands Rotary Club and you, Terry, for the payment to the Hout Bay Rotary Club for services rendered at the 2020 Cycle Tour in Hout Bay.

May I identify some of the recipients the Hout Bay Club have made payments to:

- Firstly, to the very active Rotaract Club whose work has not just followed the ideals of Rotary International but has displayed to the communities of those less fortunate the true worth of these young Rotaract members.
- Secondly, the ‘reward’ to the Imizamo Yethu team more fondly known as the IY Team, their participation, all 45 men and women, a display to all involved in not just riding the race but the organisation of it and indeed, sir, your Club, of the close association of the IY communities and the Hout Bay Rotary Club.
- Thirdly the Hout Bay Rotary Club’s diligent work with the differing communities during the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

Yours in Rotary.

Don Peters

Dr Rudi Kimmie, CEO of Tsiba, writes:

Dear Mr Lancaster

Please convey our deeply felt gratitude to the members of the Rotary Club of Newlands for the donation of the four laptops to TSIBA Education NPC.

Your expression of 'service above self' is much appreciated and are the same values that TSIBA espouses through its human-centred business education.

TSIBA's mandate is to provide transformative education to those from socio-economically marginalised communities and I can assure you that the laptops will significantly enhance learning capabilities.

Yours sincerely

Rudi Kimmie

FUTURE FIXTURES

MAY: YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

- 25 Business(ish) Meeting
Speaker : Mike Walwyn on *The Impact of Covid 19 on Supply Chains*
- 30 D9350 Zoom Meeting (2pm)
COVID-19 and Rotary - club responses, fundraising and plans going forward. An open forum to hear what your club is up to, exchange ideas and strategize for the year ahead. Attendance is limited to 300.

JUNE: ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

- 1 Partners' Meeting
- 6 D9350 Virtual District Assembly (9am)
DGE Carl-Heinz and his team will look at the year ahead
- 8 Ordinary Meeting
- 15 Ordinary Meeting
- 17 Board Meeting
- 20 D9350 Virtual District Conference and DG Induction
A look back at the past Rotary year, exchange of ideas, Formal (online) induction of DGE Carl-Heinz and a link up to the Virtual Convention that opens the same day. The conference time will be confirmed once we have the convention program and times.
- 20-26 [RI Virtual Convention](#)
- 20th 15:00 to 16:15 SAT General Session "Together, We Connect"
- 21st 15:00 to 16:15 SAT General Session "Together, We Learn"
- 22nd on Breakout Sessions at 15:00, 19:00 and 01:00 (gulp) SAT
- 27 President Jenny's Induction Dinner (*Date and time to be confirmed.*)
- 22 Business Meeting
- 29 Ordinary Meeting

UMPIRES and SCORERS

	25 May 2020 <i>Business</i>	1 June 2020 <i>Partners</i>	8 June 2020 <i>Ordinary</i>
Sergeant	Graham Lowden	Lew Botha	John Winship
Four-Way Test	Johan Beukman	Corinne Hudson	Janey Ball
Grace and Loyal Toast	Jana Forrester	Vanessa Rousseau	Jeannine Ibbotson
Attendance	Nora See	Wybe Meinesz	Richard House
Fellowship			
Minutes	Geraldine Nicol	Chris Beech	Jamie Hart
Intro speaker			
Thank speaker			
Comment	Michael Walwyn	Andy Ismay	Shân Biesman-Simons



BIRTHDAYS	27 May	Claire Lowden
	28 May	Geoff Sessions
WOODEN SPOON		Chris Beech

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

“Solitude: A good place to visit, but a poor place to stay.”
Henry Wheeler Shaw
 (1818-1885)

AND the LAST WORD

