



# HOWZAT!



The Rotary Club of Newlands  
*The Club that Appeals*

PRESIDENT JENNY IBBOTSON



Editor	Janey Ball
Email	<a href="mailto:howzat@newlands.org.za">howzat@newlands.org.za</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.newlands.org.za">www.newlands.org.za</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/NewlandsRotary">www.facebook.com/NewlandsRotary</a>



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

## COMMENT: RECONNECTING with NATURE (Lew Botha)

Whilst walking through Kirstenbosch Gardens recently I came across, and was moved by, a display of panels called "Reconnecting with Nature" that was created and produced by Belinda Ashton of "The Nature Connection". I have set out, below, the wording on the panels - which also contain some relevant pictures. I have made one adjustment to the texts: a capital "E" for planet Earth in order to distinguish it from the soil of the planet.

Take some time to absorb the messages of the writings and quotes ...

### **The diversity of life on Earth**

*Fragile threads within the web of life*

We are surrounded by a world literally teeming with life, from the tiniest bacterial organism to the greatest of all land animals, the African elephant. This diversity and abundance extends from the tropical forests and tundras, the deserts, vast oceans and glacial mountain peaks, to the incredible variety of creatures great and small, wild and wonderful with whom we share this vital, living planet.

Each life form is dependent upon others for survival, a timeless interconnection that has sustained the evolution of life, since the dawn of time. This understanding was held sacred by the ancient people of years long gone by, who understood that man did not weave the web of life, but was merely one strand in it, and that whatever he did to the web, ultimately and inevitably, he did to himself too.

Life on Earth is dynamically integrated within the ebb and flow of nature's biodiversity and ecological functioning: when habitats are reduced and species decline, our living world becomes smaller, more fragile, and less able to function optimally into the future.

The natural world with its dazzling tapestry of habitats and life forms has inspired and supported the boundless possibilities of our human spirit, shaping the foundation of all that we have become;

it awakens our imaginations and stirs our souls, reminding, evoking, taking us back to our deepest connections with the Earth and its vast community of life.

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted ... now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free." *Aldo Leopold*

### **Living within a wider world**

*This fragile vestige of our original selves*

Within each of us in an inherent connection to the Earth that has evolved over the millions of years since the human journey first began. One of the reasons why we experience such peace and tranquillity when out in nature is simply that we are returning home. Not literally, but to a distant memory of once having lived in close harmony with the land, when the birds and animals were our brothers and sisters, and we had a deep sense of belonging to the sun and moon and the wild landscapes around us.

This kinship with the natural world is deeply rooted in the unfolding story of our shared and common ancestry, of being bound together from the very beginning through our collective dependence on the abundance, resilience and health of the Earth.

To begin the journey towards connecting with the natural world, we need to find the time and physical space to integrate with nature, so that we regularly hear and feel the voice of the Earth around us. The sense of vitality that we experience when out in the sunlight and fresh air, surrounded by birds and living creatures, and walking dusty tracks through the forest or dry bush, is deeply restorative to our physical and spiritual selves.

When we look up into the vast expanse of a starry night, we experience a sense of being part of something far greater than the self, so that we connect for a short while with the timelessness of life itself, and in the moment, we touch on the wonder and mystery that is part of the enduring narrative of life on Earth.

"Every human being has a 2 million-year old man within himself; if he loses contact with that 2 million-year old self, he loses his real roots." *Lourens van der Post*

### **Engaging in the moment**

*Connecting on the trail of life*

Along the path to connecting more meaningfully with nature, stand quietly for a while and, in the stillness of the moment, slowly observe the world around you. Breathe deeply, drawing on the rich smells of the Earth. Listen to the different bird calls or the sound of water from a nearby stream. Take off your shoes and walk barefoot, feeling the moist soil beneath your feet. You are in the moment, walking the same Earth as all those who have come before you.

Look across the landscape and observe the tiny tracks leading through the grass, or the hidden nest with its bits of lichen and broken twigs. Feel the wind against your skin. Through this sensory journey we connect, for a short while, with the timeless processes that sustain and nourish all life on Earth.

A nature experience provides wonderful opportunities to restore calm and well-being amidst the pressures of modern life. Out in nature, we are encouraged to touch the Earth and connect the dots to the stars in a wider universe, to rise with the call of the birds and with an open heart, celebrate the coming of another day. And to connect with this world is to choose a path that is centred within

the present moment, rather than allowing our minds to return repeatedly to yesterday or hasten towards a new tomorrow.

To understand how all life is inter-related is to recognise in other lives the same needs as our own, of seeking food and shelter, and the kinship of others. And to observe them from eyes levelled to their height, means that you are amongst them, in the moment, and you become a small bird, which is to know them better.

"We can work together for a better world with men and women of goodwill, those who radiate the intrinsic goodness of humankind." *Wangari Maathai*

### **Our wild neighbours**

*All creatures wild and wonderful*

Our wild neighbours are the birds, small mammals and myriad creatures that live alongside us in the city, moving stealthily between the sanctuary of their natural habitats and the verdant oasis of our gardens. Many of these species are nocturnal and therefore seldom seen, but they always leave tell-tale signs as a clue to their night-time activities. For instance, shallow diggings show us where a porcupine searched for bulbs, while small tracks along the riverbank reveal a mongoose on the hunt for insects - knowing what to look out for opens your eyes to the intricate wonders and workings of nature.

There are many ways to engage daily with nature, from spending time walking outdoors to sitting quietly in the garden, listening to the birds. Keeping a nature journal or planting an indigenous garden that is left to grow profusely creates wonderful opportunities to observe our wild neighbours going about their daily lives. The key is to find an activity that resonates with you, so that you regularly experience this window into our natural world that thrives in symbiotic harmony around us.

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." *Rachel Carson*

## **MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING on ZOOM (15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020; 19h00)**

---

*Scribe: Pieter van Aswegen*

Sergeant Richard Burnett opened the meeting and President Jenny welcomed our guests and guest speaker, Godfrey Mokaeanne.

The Four-Way Test was recited by Brian Pickup and the Grace and loyal toast done by Melinda Stapleton.

Bill Holland lit the peace candle and spoke about "peace with a smile".

Terry Lancaster introduced our guest speaker, Godfrey Mokaeanne from Bread Line Africa – Social impact harvesting.

Godfrey spoke on mentorship with partners in France and the UK and NGOs profits and balances. NGOs need to restructure themselves and create endowment funds and invest funds further. He spoke further about the road to sustainability through investment. Godfrey also spoke about social enterprise investment and the need for corporates to see the benefit of funds they invest.

John Winship and Nora See raised questions and Tony Davidson thanked Godfrey.

Mike Walwyn handed the Just Desserts Spoon to Anthony Galloway for services to Leap School.

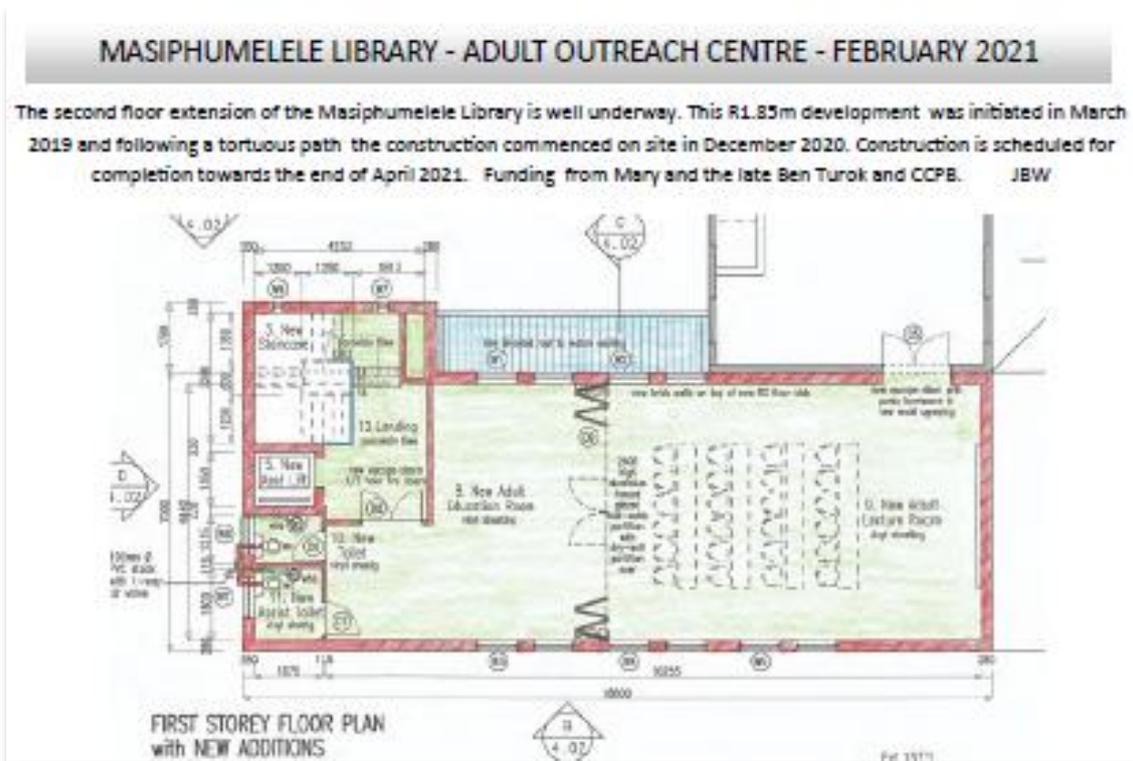
**SPOTS**

- Wybe spoke about Community Service funds and spending one third this year and two thirds next year.
- Jeremy spoke about RC Blouberg’s visit to Blouberg, which he attended. Glencairn is a great venue and he suggested that we need more contact and interaction with responsible social distancing.
- Tony Davidson spoke about the Relate bracelets.
- Ian Pursch suggested 5/3/21 ‘Beer on the Rocks’ with Koos.

Jenny Ibbotson had her President’s slot and Richard Burnett closed the meeting.

**NEWSLANDS ROTARY NEWS**

CSI expert, RC Member John Winship reports:





## NEWS FROM THE ROTARY WORLD

Our online Rotary life can be such an extraordinary experience. Granted, it's not near the same as meeting in person but could any of us have imagined the incredible online opportunities that would unfold during this horrible, totally awful, shattering thing called Covid.

We've been able to attend an RI convention in Hawaii, and soon will be able to do so again, in Taiwan. And just this week, the Ed attended a *Peace and Climate Change Webinar*, in Australia and, on Friday morning, she could be found at RC Waterfront's 'dawn patrol' meeting. And what an amazing meeting that was! Our PDG, June Webber, was presented with Rotary International's Service Above Self Award. The Ed was asked to write a guest spot for RCW's "Seal's Bark" newsletter this week. Here's what followed:

*What a privilege to have a guest spot in the Seal's Bark, the more so given the topic; that of your charter member, PDG June Webber, on Friday morning receiving Rotary's prestigious Service Above Self award.*

*Members of RC Waterfront will of course know that June's energy, commitment and enthusiasm for Rotary is unbounded and extends not only to the activities of RC Waterfront but those in our District, across Africa and, quite often, the Rotary world. What members may not know is that the Service Above Self Award is the highest honour bestowed by Rotary*



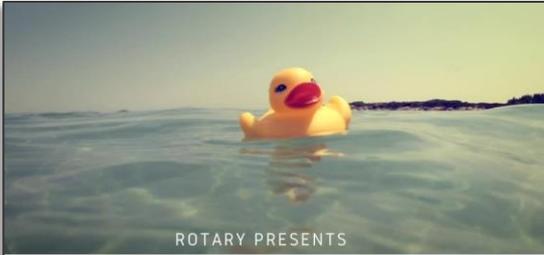
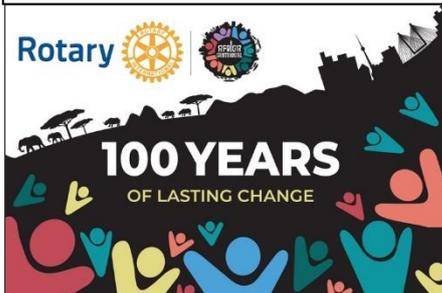
*International on a Rotarian. Only 150 Rotarians worldwide are considered each year and hundreds of nominations from districts across the world are received by RI.*

*As part of the nomination process, a list of Rotary Service Activities is required. Word has it that, in June's case, the list was so extensive that abridging the submission to only three pages in itself could have constituted a service project. Yet it is in the answer to the nomination's closing question - "How does the candidate embody service above self" - that members of RC Waterfront will best recognise June. The submission read:*

*"PDG June embodies her reference, online, to the quote that "The meaning of your life is to find your gift. The purpose of your life is to give it away." PDG June has undoubtedly found her gift and, every day, in her service above self, gives it away. Her unstinting support of the efforts of every District Governor since she herself held this office, her kindness and concern for Rotarians across the District, her sensitivity to those less fortunate, and her unbridled joy in even the smallest Rotary success has greatly enriched the lives of Rotarians and project beneficiaries throughout District 9350, and beyond. PDG June unflinchingly volunteers her time and talent to humanitarian service and, whether at personal, club, district, zone, or RI level, has carried forward and been an exemplary ambassador for Rotary's motto of Service above Self."*

*Congratulations June! And thank you RC Waterfront for sharing your wonderful June with the wider Rotary world.*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

 <p>ROTARY PRESENTS</p>  <p><b>DUCK RACE</b> </p> <p>Date: 13th March 2021 Time: 09:30      Venue: Rosebank Canal opposite      Starke Ayres on Camp Ground Road      Registration: R200 A duck      Mail Elizabeth : aecon.e@mweb.co.za</p> 	<p>Saturday 24 &amp; Sunday 25 April:          Zone 22 Rotary Africa Centennial          International Conference          Johannesburg (on Zoom)</p>   <p><b>100 YEARS</b>          OF LASTING CHANGE</p> 
---	--

The visuals above may give you some sense of a busy time ahead, but wait folks..... there's more ... much more.

On Rotary Day, 23 February, you can join RI general secretary, John Hewko, for a [virtual tour of Rotary One](#). It's a seriously interesting space.

Soon after, the next in Rotary's 2020-21 series of diversity, equity and inclusion webinars takes place, on 25 February to be precise. Entitled **Exploring the Black Experience in Rotary**, the webinar will consider how our different lives, experiences, and perspectives allow a community to be not only

about what we have in common but what makes us different. Okay, so for Southern Africans, 23h00 may not be a favourite webinar time but registrants will receive a link to the content for later viewing. You can sign up [here](#).

Then, from 8 to 14 March, it's World Rotaract Week, an annual celebration of the success and the importance of Rotaract in communities around the world. Join the experience 8-14 March to connect with others and share the celebrations. And you can learn four ways that you can take action and observe World Rotaract Week this year on the Rotaract Facebook page, [here](#).

## RCN FUTURE FIXTURES (*Online, for now.*)

---

### *FEBRUARY – PEACE and CONFLICT RESOLUTION / PREVENTION*

22 Business Meeting

### *MARCH – WATER and SANITATION*

1 Partners Meeting *Ngwe Tiyo: President of Khayelitsha Rotaract.*  
 7 Bring & Braai at Glencairn Youth Camp  
 8 District PI Workshop (18h00 to 19h00)  
 Ordinary Meeting *Mike Walwyn: Rotary Peace Fellowship programme*  
 15 Ordinary Meeting *Quiz: Wendy Goddard*  
 17 Board Meeting  
 22 PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
 29 Business Meeting

### *APRIL – MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH*

5 PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
 12 Ordinary Meeting  
 17 District 9350 Assembly  
 19 Ordinary Meeting  
 21 Board meeting  
 26 Business Meeting

### *MAY – YOUTH*

1 District 9350 Conference  
 3 Partners' Meeting  
 10 Ordinary Meeting  
 17 Ordinary Meeting  
 19 Board Meeting  
 24 Business Meeting  
 31 Ordinary Meeting



<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Vanessa Rousseau
	27 <sup>th</sup> February	Gill Davidson
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>		
<b>JOINED ROTARY</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> February	Jamie Hart
<b>JUST DESSERTS SPOON</b>		Anthony Galloway

## UMPIRES and SCORERS

	22 February 2021 <i>Business</i>	1 March 2021 <i>Partners</i>	8 March 2021 <i>Ordinary</i>
Sergeant	Graham Finlayson	Henry Campbell	Shân Biesman-Simons
Four-Way Test / Object	Johan Beukman	John Winship	Janey Ball
Grace and Loyal Toast	Michael Walwyn	Wendy Goddard	Graham Lowden
Peace Candle and Quote	Geraldine Nicol	Ian Pursch	Richard Burnett
Minutes	Wybe Meinesz	Johan Taljaard	Terry Lancaster
Intro speaker		Jamie Hart	Heidi Andersson
Thank speaker		Jeremy Opperman	Brian Pickup
Comment	Richard House	Glynis Menné-Hart	Jeremy Opperman

- *If you cannot make this duty, please arrange a substitute and let the Sergeant know.*
- *Peace Candle duty includes lighting a candle and providing a quote.*
- *Comment is due on the date above. Publication is the Monday following. Usually. Please submit a text file and, if you have pics, please attach these.*

## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS *(soon to be updated)*



**President**  
Jenny Ibbotson



**Past President**  
Terry Lancaster



**Treasurer**  
Peter Ennis



**Secretary**  
Janey Ball



**Environment Chair**  
Tony Davidson



**ECD Project**  
Geraldine Nicol



**Vocational Service**  
Jeannine Ibbotson



**Foundation Chair**  
Mike Walwyn



**Club Services**  
Heidi Andersson



**Youth Service**  
Wendy Goddard



**International Service**  
Shân Biesman-Simons



**Entrepreneurship**  
John Stephenson



**Community Services**  
Wybe Meinesz



Vanessa Rosseau



Graham Finlayson



Shelley Finch

----- **Membership & Publicity Cluster** -----

AND the LAST WORD .....

---

The Ed appears (at last) to have found a way to persuade her dear readers to get all the way to the end of *Howzat!* It seems to take a musical Easter Egg (as online surprises are known, these days).

[Here's that for this week](#) .... a delightful rendition of the Four-Way Test from the Rotary Club of Dar Es Salaam.

See you on the moro....

LOOKING FOR MEMBERS' CONTACT INFORMATION ?

Download the ClubRunner App from the [Playstore](#) or the [AppStore](#).  
If you've lost your login details, send wine to the s ecretary and WhatsApp +27 82 378 7800.