



Rotary
Club of Newlands



HOWZAT!

WEEKLY CLUB BULLETIN



Chartered 1993 | Club No 29806

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PRESIDENT : JENNY IBBOTSON

COMMENT: DOES HE TAKE SUGER (Wobblies Ink / Jeremy Opperman)

Recently, while shopping with a good friend, it happened again.

I had just finished keying in my pin on the card-reader at the check-out counter in a large supermarket.

The cashier who could not have been nicer nor more friendly, turned to my friend and asked, "How does he know which buttons to press?"

Being completely inured to this sort of thing, I watch with interest to see how my friend reacts.

In this peculiar custom, an individual, when encountering a person with a disability, very often addresses the person accompanying the disabled person, instead of speaking to them directly.

This can be like watching a particularly brutal episode of National Geographic. One can almost hear David Attenborough intoning, "The female, with her hackles up and eyes narrowed, bares her teeth and prepares to eviscerate her hapless prey" because, interestingly, it is usually women who react dramatically to this implied slight to their friend / husband / father, etc.

As I expected, my friend being worldly and level headed (most of the time) responded perfectly. She smiled, one hopes with her eyes, since her face mask would have hidden the actual facial alteration, and said: "Why don't you ask him, he is standing right in front of you."

To her credit, the cashier did exactly that, although with some hesitation, and did in fact ask me.

In turn, I enthusiastically explained the apparent magical mystery of how a blind person can key in their pin number into a card reader. She was particularly fascinated to know that every keypad has a raised dot on the 5 button, allowing us to orientate to the other numbers on the keypad; 2 above the 5, 8 below, 4 to the left and 6 to the right.

I smiled to myself, because I well know that that particular accessible feature although absolutely ubiquitous on all keypads, even telephones, is universally unknown by people who use them every day.

Similarly, people when commenting in admiration at how amazing it is that blind people can type, so often are totally surprised to hear the F and J keys on all keyboards, are marked in the same way, thus allowing blind people to know where they are on the keyboard.

This all goes back to why it is that so many people simply avoid communication, almost as if they fear the interaction with people with disabilities in everyday situations.

It is so common that it is a well-known trope amongst people with disabilities of all makes and models. It even has a name. Does he take sugar?



For those who might struggle to see the cartoon, it depicts a woman pouring tea and asking the partner of a blind man if he takes sugar.

However, the lesson is not only for those people who practice this bizarre habit. It is for those that are being addressed in proxy. Their response, often volcanic and rude does not help the situation. Similarly, to ignore it is just as bad.

Simply say as my good friend did, "why not ask him, he is right here"

But there is more. This phenomenon is also very often employed even when the disabled person is unaccompanied.

In this version, far less innocuous than the first type, involves the person with a disability being totally overlooked, very often blatantly, by an amazing amount of people, especially service staff.

Unfortunately, it is most commonly practiced on wheelchair users. Their height, foreshortened by circumstance; presumably, in the mind of these service staff, transform them into children of a similar relative height, which then renders them unimportant.

Once again, this is a common and well researched and documented phenomenon. Even in every day society, it can be played out in the work place or amongst friends. Where the individual with a disability is overlooked in situations, where their input might have been rather useful.

Which reminds me of an evening not too long ago, when a group of friends and I gathered at one home and attended a Zoom meeting together sharing one laptop.

Just then, expectedly, the place was plunged into darkness.

As alternative battery power was being arranged, there was a mad scrum at the laptop as at least three people scabbled to set up the laptop with power, external speaker and microphone cables, all in total darkness. There was a fair amount of tension around as they argued about which port and jack were to be used for each external device.

Not one of them thought to ask the only person in the room with the unequivocal experience to do the job, which he literally could have done with his eyes closed.

MINUTES of the MEETING on ZOOM 3rd May 2021 18h30

Scribe: Melinda Stapleton

Sergeant Graham Lowden
 Four-Way Test Ilan Pursch
 Grace & Toast Brian Pickup
 Peace Candle Vanessa Rousseau

Graham started the meeting and asked President Jenny to open the meeting. Jenny welcomed us all, which she apparently forgot to do last week but she can be forgiven for that as she had a rather large meeting to run. She made special mention of our newest member, Andrew Hunter who recently transferred from RC Grahamstown and has settled in CT with his wife. Welcome Andrew.

Graham handed the meeting over to Jeannine Ibbotson, who decided we needed an in-depth discussion about membership. We were divided up into four meeting rooms - clever Janey for managing this. There were seven questions to discuss and debate in 30 minutes.

The questions were:

1. What kind of person would be a good Rotary member?
2. What do you think the Club can and should offer or do to bring new members?
3. What would stop you from bringing in a new member?
4. What do you need from us to support you bringing in new members?
5. What do you think the optimal number of members is for RCN?
6. Would the Club benefit from greater diversity? If so why? What kind of diversity would be good?
7. Would it help to bring new members if we had smaller hands on projects?

A lively discussion ensued amongst the four groups. The answers below are from Group 1.

1. What kind of person would be a good Rotary Member?
 - a. Loaded question, and judgemental
 - b. Community minded
 - c. Interested and wanting to be involved in what we do
 - d. Need to want to be part of fellowship
 - e. Range of people – part of bigger picture
 - f. Spirit of service
 - g. Movers and shakers, and soldiers
 - h. Humanitarian side of it
 - i. Skills in projects and mindset
 - j. Careful not to be narrow-minded about it
 - k. Desire to make a difference and belong to this association.
 - l. People should know what Rotary does and stands for
2. What do you think the Club can or should offer to bring in new members?
 - a. Provide good information and One-on-one approach valuable
 - b. Obligations
 - c. Offer: enabling members to be part of helping in community service
 - d. Fellowship and association and network and Credibility
 - e. Personal development
 - f. Tell our stories and show projects more often

3. What would stop you from bringing in a new member
 - a. Do not have the network or mixing with them
 - b. Risk of the new members becoming isolated / disconnected
 - c. Reference to old age
4. What do you need from us to support you bringing in new members
 - a. Look after new members better
 - b. Make them feel more inclusive and connected
 - c. Assign an existing member to the new member
 - d. Structured approach needed and must be followed
 - e. Intro and induction process needed
5. What do you think the optimal number of members is for RCN?
 - a. Depends on quality of induction and continued support, avoid losing inclusivity
 - b. Club needs to keep its values and identity
 - c. Not too much growth – additional administrative effort
 - d. Small enough to keep fellowship manageable – not impersonal
 - e. Max 60
6. Would the Club benefit from greater Diversity. If so, why? What kind of Diversity would be good?
 - a. Yes, embraced and encouraged – diversity is good
 - b. Not if its forced or artificial
 - c. Careful in SA
 - d. Not just race: age, stage of life, occupation, skills
 - e. Needs to represent people in the area.
7. Would it help to bring new members if we had smaller hands on projects?
 - a. Yes, getting to know people in small projects is good.

The following is from Group 3:

1. What kind of person would be a good Rotary Member?
 - a. A busy person, dedicated to a cause with a passion to give back.
 - b. Should be of sufficient means to afford Rotary or have new skills that the club needs
 - c. Preferably from the younger set.
2. What do you think the Club can or should offer to bring in new members?
 - a. The club should offer resources to enable new members to achieve their passions and should offer mentorship to new members to enhance the spirit of fellowship and membership. The club should show the new members our many projects past and current and encourage participation in these and smaller projects.
 - b. Provide good information and one-on-one approach valuable
3. What would stop you from bringing in a new member?

The new member needs to measure up to Rotary standards and a reasonable background check should have been done. If not possible then they should attend at least four to six meetings and join a committee before they are brought before the club as potential members. You must be sure that they are going to feel comfortable in the club and they should be encouraged to bring in friends with them to make them more at home.
4. What do you need from us to support you bringing in new members

The club should provide properly controlled mentorship and should navigate the potential member through our different projects and at the same time have organised fellowship events.
5. What do you think the optimal number of members is for RCN?

Sixty with fifty active, and preferably younger members.

6. Would the Club benefit from greater Diversity. If so, why? What kind of Diversity would be good?
Yes, yes and yes. This will bring in new skills and new cultures that we all need to experience. The needed diversity is in race and younger members.
7. Would it help to bring new members if we had smaller hands on projects?
Yes it would encourage new members to get involved and get to know Rotary and enable them to meet Rotarians while working together.

Jeannine thanked her committee for working hard with her to address this issue.

Mike Walwyn told us that the container with PPE had arrived and needed unpacking and storing. Richard Burnett kindly offered to get it moved and store it.

President Jenny reminded us all to register for a webinar that includes our very own Jeremy Opperman. Jeremy will join assistive technology expert, Dr Maria de Mello (United Arab Emirates) and Disability Rights Activist, Mark Wafer (Canada), in discussion on Building a Welcoming Community for People with Disabilities On 27 May.

There were no birthdays or anniversaries.

Graham closed the meeting.

HOLD THESE DATES

Glynis writes:

Please join us for our next walk on Tuesday 1st June at Kirstenbosch. I have chosen a Tuesday, as entry for pensioners is free.

We will meet inside the gates, outside the restaurant at 10.45. After a stroll which will include the Boomslang, we can enjoy a bit of fellowship in the restaurant. There's no need to reply - just come along on the day.

And now for something NEW!

I have provisionally booked two nights' accommodation for 20 people (I can increase or decrease this number) at Agulhas National Park for the nights of 7 and 8 September.

I'm told that Agulhas is one of the best parks in the SANParks portfolio and we should hopefully see a few flowers too!

This one must be decided upon soon, as the first deposit must be paid in early June.

The cottages are 2-, 4- and 8-sleepers and are fully equipped.

The cost per person per night is R412.50 (pensioners' rate!!) and for non-Wild card holders, an extra R48 per day for park fees.

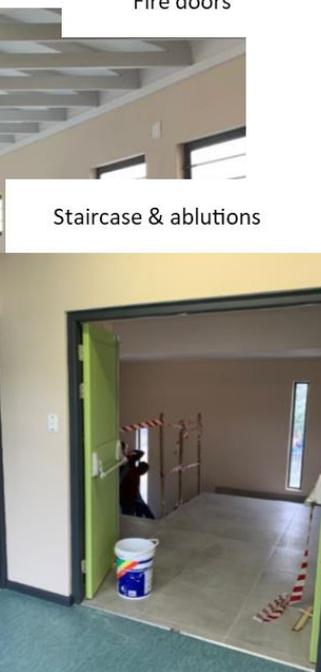
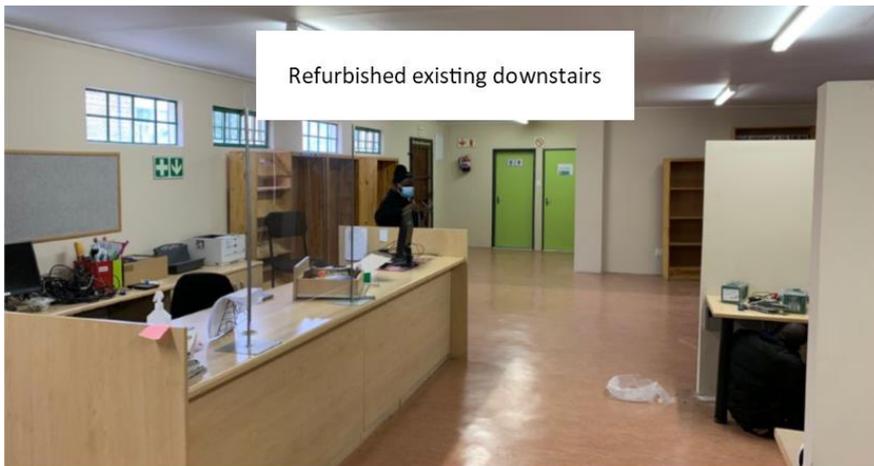
I will need definite numbers by 5 June, and 50% deposit by 8 June, please. The final payment must be made by 15 July.

Obviously all other arrangements will be made nearer the time.

I am away until 22 May, but please [email me](#) if you would like to join in the fun! I will send bank details to those who are interested. Looking forward to seeing you all.

NEWS from NEULANDS

MASIPHUMELELE LIBRARY - ADULT OUTREACH CENTRE - MAY 2021



CORRESPONDENCE

Our speakers for 7th June write:

Dear Jenny and Melinda,

Thank you very much for the opportunity of speaking at your meeting on Monday 7 June.

We have thought about what the best format will be for our talk and realized that it would be very beneficial if some of the audience members have already experienced the workshop which we offer. It would be very valuable for them to provide brief feedback of their experience of the workshop at the meeting on the 7th of June.

The work we do has a big impact on the individuals and their immediate and extended families and communities, leading to improved inner communication and therefore having a positive impact on interactions with others.

We are offering a free introductory workshop on Friday the 21st of May 2021 at our venue in Kommetjie for 6 of your Rotary members. Start time will be 2:30pm and we will be finished around 5pm. Please confirm via email info@aptherapists.co.za or whatsapp 0823489117 and we will provide further information regarding logistics.

Interaction with the herd will be groundwork and participants do not need any previous horse experience.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Kindest regards

Adele Pudney and Aimee Kuhl

Ed: For further information, see PDF attached.

RCN FUTURE FIXTURES (*Online, for now*)

MAY – YOUTH

- 17 Ordinary Meeting: *Brett Agiotis: "Aerobotics - Using intelligent tools to feed the world."*
- 19 Board Meeting
- 24 Business Meeting
- 31 Ordinary Meeting: *Jan Arkart: "Oil and Gas exploration in Namibia and Botswana and possible fracking."*

JUNE – ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

- 7 Partners Meeting: *Adele Pudney and Aimee Kuhl: [Equine-assisted therapy programs](#)*
- 21 Ordinary Meeting: *Kim Whittaker, Ubuntu Beds*
- 28 President Geraldine Nicol's *Induction Dinner*



BIRTHDAYS	18 th May	Dottie Leveque
ANNIVERSARIES	18 th May	Graham and Lynne Finlayson
JOINED ROTARY	19 th May 2014	Rochelle Malberbe
JUST DESSERTS SPOON		All at Newlands, c/o President Jenny

UMPIRES and SCORERS

	17 May 2021 <i>Ordinary</i>	24 May 2021 <i>Business</i>	31 May 2021 <i>Ordinary</i>
Sergeant	Lew Botha	John Winship	Henry Campbell
Four-Way Test / Object	Tony van der Lith	Richard House	Melinda Stapleton
Grace and Loyal Toast	Pieter van Aswegen	Jamie Hart	Graham Finlayson
Peace Candle and Quote	John Stephenson	Michael Walwyn	Janey Ball
Minutes	Jeannine Ibbotson	Heidi Andersson	Nora See
Intro speaker	Johan Beukman		Richard Burnett
Thank speaker	Chris Beech		Shân Biesman-Simons
Comment	Ian Pursch	Tony Davidson	Wendy Goddard

- *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



President
Jenny Ibbotson



Past President
Terry Lancaster



President Elect / ECD
Geraldine Nicol



Secretary
Janey Ball



Treasurer
Peter Ennis



Club Services
Heidi Andersson



Community Services
Wybe Meinesz



CSI
Graham Finlayson



Entrepreneurship
John Stephenson



Environmental Sustainability
Tony Davidson



Foundation
Mike Walwyn



International Service
Shân Biesman-Simons



Membership
Jeannine Ibbotson



Public Image
Shelley Finch



Public Image
Vanessa Rousseau



Vocational Service
Jeremy Opperman



Youth Service
Wendy Goddard

AND the LAST WORD

So exciting! It's that time of year, again. Liza Doolittle Day!

Long-standing subscribers to *Howzat!* will know why.

Newcomers may need some help. In such event, click [here](#).

Impatient newcomers can advance to 2'40".

See you on the moro....

