



HOWZAT!



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



President: Colin Burke
Secretary: Lucian Pitt



Be a gift to the world

Editor: Peter Ennis

e-mail: howzat@newlands.org.za

Newlands Rotary website: www.newlands.org.za

Rotary District 9350 website: www.rotary9350.co.za

1 February 2016

WEEKLY UPDATE

P O Box 44735
CLAREMONT
7735

MEETINGS: Western Province Cricket Club Sports Centre, Ave De Mist, Rondebosch, every Monday at 18h00 for 18h15 (Except for first Monday of the Month which is a Partner's Meeting, 18h30 for 19h00).

ATTENDANCE: Notice of apologies and guests and/or meal specifics to email Vanessa Rousseau at rousseau@iafrica.com and copy to Melinda Stapleton at mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za before 10h30 on Monday mornings please.

Comment

The Editor

Why Wikipedia might be the most important invention ever

Wikipedia turned 15 on 15 January 2016. It may be one of the most important inventions in the history of humanity. I know it because of my kid.

Last week on our way to school he asked yet another question for which I didn't have an answer. It had something to do with quantum computing. My kid is painstakingly planning his mission to Mars, and after the rockets and the ship, he is now tackling the all-important matter of computer systems.

I only had a vague notion of what quantum computing is. So I did what every stumped parent equipped with a smartphone does these days. I looked it up on Wikipedia. Problem solved. Question answered. Dad rescued from haplessness.

This little victory in parenting reminded me of my own, much less tech-enabled childhood. One of the greatest moments in my life came when I turned 10 and got an encyclopedia for my birthday from my parents and grandparents. It was top notch: ten very heavy volumes, with tons of color illustrations, photos, formulas, definitions and even bibliographies.

That Encyclopedia was a total joy. I would spend hours going through it in alphabetical order. That was how I gained access to the most up-to-date, curated knowledge about the world.

It had a few drawbacks, however. Once published, it was set in stone, or rather in print. There was no changing or updating it so the rockets in the 'astronautics' article started to look a little dated when the space shuttle program became all the rage in the early 80s. In addition, only I and the other people who had purchased their own copies of the Encyclopedia could read its contents. If you wanted to look at it, you either had to buy it, go to the public library, or visit a friend who owned it. And of course, it was physically big, taking up a lot of the space on the shelves in my room, more than 50 pounds of paper and binding. There was no way I would be able to take the full run with me anywhere. If I was curious about something during the day, I had to make a mental note to search later that night.

Fast-forward to now. As knowledge repositories and commercial enterprises, paper encyclopedias have gone the way of the Dodo. The combined assault of hypertext, search engines and Wikipedia killed them, plain and simple. In 2012, Encyclopedia Britannica announced that it would no longer publish its printed version and focus on its website instead. This is quite a downfall from its prior heights. From its origins in Great Britain, Britannica had conquered the US market by way of mail order. Until 2004, one of Chicago's most iconic skyscraper was named the Britannica building, because Chicago was the mail-order capital of the world.

Overall, the death of print encyclopedias has been a good thing, a case where technological disruption worked for the greater good. The replacement, Wikipedia, is infinitely better. I can read up on the most asinine details of Kanye's life and oeuvre, or the Mongolian military (in both English and Mongolian), or quantum computing. I can even contribute my own edits to each and every article, which will be then approved or cleaned up through a rather convoluted and obscure process. Occasional wars erupt around controversial articles (George W. Bush's entry is the most heavily edited article ever – see the full list here.)

The crowdsourcing of articles is perhaps the most well-known feature of Wikipedia. At first it was derided by incumbent Encyclopedia publishers as amateurish and lacking in authority. However, as Wikipedia grew, it developed what computer scientists call emergent properties. The more the internet crowds flocked to it, the better Wikipedia became. Thanks to the embrace and involvement of its users, and a software platform that was specifically designed for that collaborative purpose, Wikipedia gradually turned into an evolving, self-corrective and self-improving entity.

All these features are absolutely splendid. But they pale in comparison to their ultimate effect. The most important aspect of Wikipedia, the reason why it is such a decisive, world-changing invention, is that it is what economists call a public good.

It fits the definition to a tee. Wikipedia is non-rival, that is, my usage doesn't limit somebody else from using it at the same time; and it is non-excludable, that is, unlike printed encyclopedias, nobody can put a monetary barrier to my usage. In fact Wikipedia is maintained by a non-profit foundation, which partly relies on voluntary contributions from the public (and yes, you should give them even a \$1 every year).

As a public good, Wikipedia generates incredible positive externalities: it creates much more value to society than what it actually costs in money, in terms of power consumed by its servers and editors' time. And here's how: it is global. It is everywhere and in every language, even constructed ones from Esperanto to Klingon. It exists and prospers on the backbone of the internet. By being completely free and accessible, either through a network connection or as an offline DVD (or related media like phone apps), Wikipedia puts a good chunk of human knowledge at your fingertips, including how to build a nuclear weapon in your garage. You can use it as a base for further explorations. You can find answers to practically all of your questions from the extremely obscure to the more superficial.

Wikipedia is also a harbinger of things to come. I see it every day with my kid and his unending stream of questions. It's not that he is particularly gifted or special. The reason he can even ask about quantum computing is a direct effect of Wikipedia's beneficial feedback loop. Unfettered access to knowledge makes him more inquisitive, and not the other way around.

He asks increasingly complex questions precisely because he asked about regular, binary computing beforehand and got a response from me (which I culled from Wikipedia).

Now that he can type on his own, he searches Wikipedia himself. He is growing up knowing that any question on any topic has an answer online. The Encyclopedia is always there, in his dad's pocket or on the family's iPad. This is not just comforting. It is mind-expanding. It fosters wild and unimpeded curiosity: one question leads naturally to another question and another one and another ad infinitum. Knowledge becomes a game of chance, an expedition, with hypertext links and search boxes as propellers. Unlike me and my 50-pound, 10 volumes dead-tree Encyclopedia, there are seemingly no physical limits to what my kid can learn.

This is the world he is growing up in, where access to knowledge is truly free, exhaustive and pervasive. And if we know one thing about the history of humankind, is that when knowledge circulates freely, good things tend to happen. Just think for a minute of what happened in the aftermath of Gutenberg's printing press. It suddenly made knowledge available to people beyond monks and literate aristocrats. It gave people an incentive to read and write. Knowledge and ideas spread like wildfire. That radical democratization ignited the scientific revolution, the Renaissance and ultimately gave birth to the modern world. Thanks to that other public good, the worldwide web, Wikipedia is allowing for something similar, but at a much quicker pace and on a vastly more massive scale. It is hard to predict what untold progress and social transformations lie ahead of us as a result of such intensification in the free flow of knowledge.

One thing is for sure though: it makes the kids infinitely more curious and smarter than we could ever hope to be. Which bodes well for our species' prospects.

From fusion.net

Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 25 January 2016

Scribe: Shân Biesman-Simons

Business meeting

Sergeant Jana (who had earlier been surprised to hear that she was Sergeant) called the meeting to order.

President Colin welcomed the guests, **Lee Bergman** (District Rotaract Representative) and **Wayne Munro**

Andy read the Object of Rotary

Glynis did the Grace and Toast

President Colin inducted **Jamie Hart**. Welcome **Jamie!**

Paul was in a generous mood and had 3 'wines' for the wine swindle and these were won by **Roy Zazeraj, Wybe and Janey**

President Colin is attached to the Stirrer's Spoon so is slow in finding a worthy recipient

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Chris Beech

- 53 members currently
- Membership Drive evening on 29 February. Each member is encouraged to bring a guest

Community Services – Brian Pickup

Brian asked **Tinus** to report back on **Books of the World** and points raised included:

- Books of the World are moving from Pinelands to LEAP, Langa which is on St Antony's Church property.
- 3 containers will move this week

- There is a room for library and distribution of books
- Françoise has a permanent job at the school
- There is a possibility that a 'no cost' documentary may be made of the process of converting a container into a library

Brian continued the report back from committee

- President's Challenge requests for this Rotary year will be accepted until February 29
- Numerous appeals for money from organisations. These are considered by committee
- Lifematters – monetary assistance for teacher training in 5 schools in Lakeside/Retreat area
- LEAP (some info given by **Mike W**) – Antony Galloway (guest at recent meeting) has had contact with 4 American Rotary Clubs wanting to sponsor projects at Leap Schools and potential through Rotary (local clubs, American and Australian clubs, District 9350, 2 American districts and matching funding to raise four million rand.) **John W** sees possibility for current potential Newland project at LEAP to be part of this
- There should be approximately R65000 available for ECD projects
- There have been a number of thank you letters received and a suggestion was made that a synopsis of these is recorded in *Howzat*

International and Vocational Service - Johan Beukman

- EarlyAct - Bishops doing well, The Grove was dormant as teacher left but will be revived as have an interested teacher and Newlands Club will assist Pinelands club by chartering two new clubs, one at (Sivile Primary in Ikweze Park and Blue Downs Primary School)
- Interact - currently have four clubs and two to be chartered (Uzazo High School in Mandela Park and Cosat High School in Elitha Park). These will be first two Interact in local townships
- Rotaract - Newlands doesn't partner with a Rotaract Club but supports clubs and district events
- Long Term Exchange - Karolina from Finland is being hosted by Newlands Rotary Club for second half of Rotary year. She is staying with the Nel family and Kirsten Nel recently returned from her year in Finland. Both will speak at next business meeting

Club Services – Melinda Stapleton

- **Vanessa** does attendance and please email (not SMS or WhatsApp) her with apologies
- There was a breakdown in communications with WPCC at the beginning of the year but these have improved
- February's Partners' Meeting and the meeting on 8th February (raid by **Cape of Good Hope Rotary Club**) will be in Bowls Club
- **Noon Gun Club** wants to raid us. This will happen after Cycle Tour
- Food has improved (Tonight's meal was delicious)
- **Corinne** thanked for organising speakers and everyone encouraged to assist her with this
- Attendance officer to ensure regalia is out (should be done by WPCC) and to put it away after meeting

Public Relations – Regine le Roux

- Great media coverage of Disaster Vehicle launch
- **President Colin** and **Richard Burnett** thanked for being interviewed by media

Treasurer – Peter Ennis

- Club is financially sound
- Members' accounts will be sent out shortly
- Six monthly subs to increase as a result of weak rand and increase in Rotary Africa subscription

International and Vocational Service – Jenny Ibbotson

- Thanks to all for support and well wishes subsequent to her accident. Recovery could take up to a year (*Good to have you back!*)
- Awards evening on 4 April and assistance for this offered by **Andy** and **Eric**

SPOTS

Menno thanked **Vanessa** for help with adverts to WPCC members re Rotary

Terry reported on Cycle Tour

- Capri and Noordhoek Refreshment Stations still need managers
- Route Drive for Refreshment Station 1-9 on Wednesday and for Stations 10-end and Plan B on Thursday
- Schedule of meetings to follow and please diarise and attend these

Pieter told us that repairs are under control for refreshment stations but he needs more mobile scooter repair volunteers

PRESIDENT'S SLOT

- **DG Geraldine's** official visit is our next meeting (1 February). Board please to meet at 5:00 pm at Bowls Club
- **DG Colin** was reminded to wish **Jenny Lancaster** happy birthday (29 Jan) and to congratulate the **de Jongh's** on their anniversary (31 Jan)

SERGEANT'S SLOT

- **Sergeant Jana** fined herself for not knowing she was sergeant for this meeting and thanked **Andrew Peile** for his contribution to her slot
- There were many 'Happy Rands' which were indicative of the happy and meeting
- Meeting was closed and animated fellowship continued!

Still a record

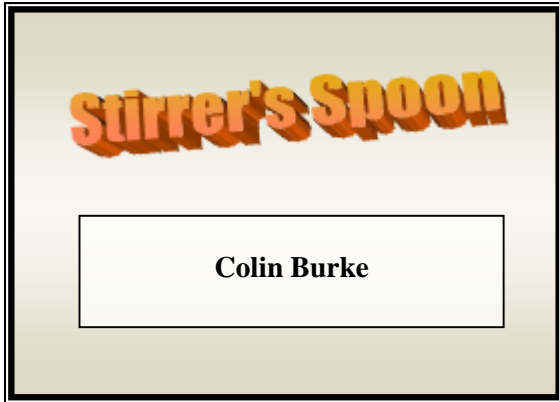
If box-office receipts are adjusted for inflation, *Gone With the Wind* is still the highest-grossing film of all time, with earnings of \$3.4 billion in 2014 dollars.

Across all releases, it is estimated that *Gone with the Wind* has sold over 200 million tickets in the United States and Canada and 35 million tickets in the United Kingdom, generating more theatre admissions in those territories than any other film.

The film remains immensely popular with audiences into the 21st century, having been voted the most popular film in two nationwide polls of Americans in 2008, and again in 2014.



After the film's 1939 premiere in Atlanta, playwright Moss Hart wired producer David O. Selznick:
OH, ALL RIGHT, GO AHEAD AND HAVE A VULGAR COMMERCIAL SUCCESS!



[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

FUTURE FIXTURES

Year Planner

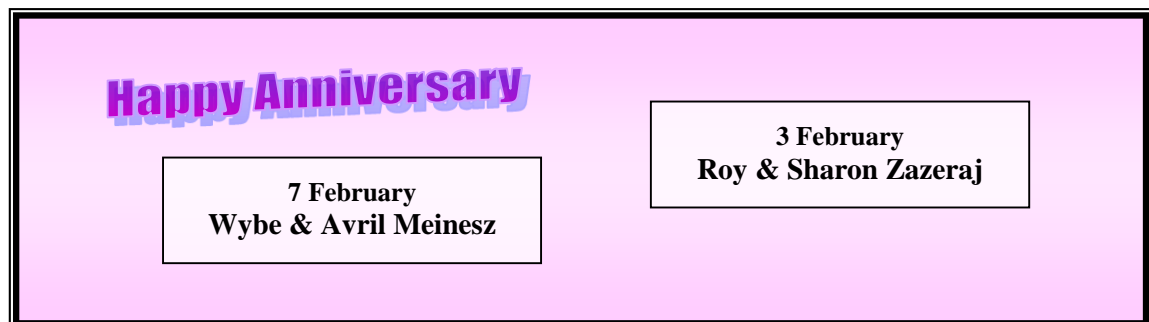
Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

February 2016

Mon 1 DG Visit
Mon 8 Ordinary
Mon 15 Ordinary
Mon 22 Business
Mon 29 Ordinary

March 2016

Sun 6 Cape Town Cycle Tour
Mon 7 Partners
Mon 14 Ordinary
Mon 21 No meeting – Public Holiday
Mon 28 No meeting – Public Holiday



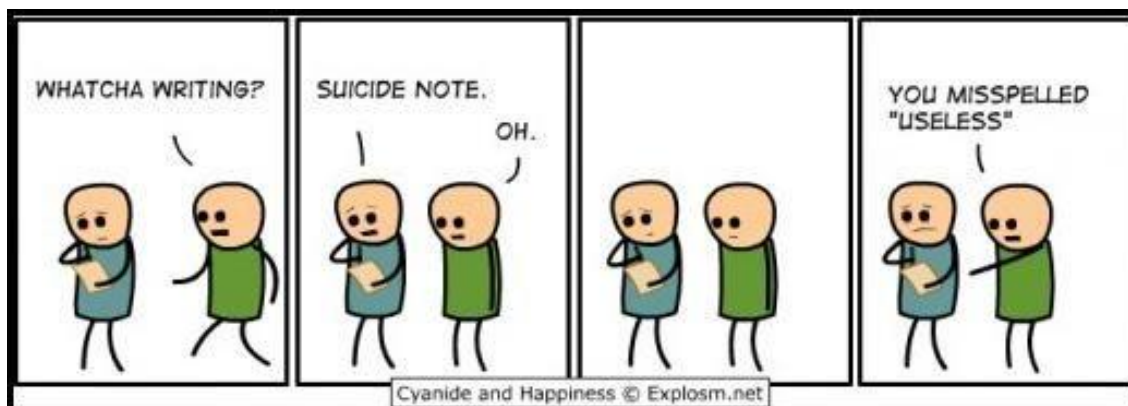
UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	1 February	8 February	15 February	22 February
MEETING	DG Visit - Partners	Ordinary	Ordinary	Business
SERGEANT	Graham Lowden	Peter Henshilwood	Bill Holland	Pippa McLeod
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Jenny Ibbotson	John Stephenson	Eric Diazenza	Michael Walwyn
GRACE & TOAST	Chris Beech	Richard House	Pieter van Aswegen	Brian Pickup
ATTENDANCE	Ian Pursch	Tinus de Jongh	Corinne Hudson	Richard Burnett
FELLOWSHIP	Janey Ball	Terry Lancaster	Garnet Carr	Regine le Roux
MINUTES	Graham Finlayson	Lucian Pitt	Mike Young	Wybe Meinesz
COMMENT	Rochelle Malherbe	Heidi Andersson	Daphne Lyell	Tony van der Lith
THANK SPEAKER		Menno de Wet	Bill Meyer	
INTRO SPEAKER		Jenna Monk	Paul Spiller	

Invited GUEST SPEAKERS

- 8 Feb **Lance Brown** – *The Driver of Change*
 15 Feb **Marie Chevrier** – *Musiquelaine*
 14 Mar **Anthony Galloway** – *LEAP School update*

If you cannot do your job on the day, please find someone who can do it instead of you, then contact the Sergeant on the day to update the roster. Please don't leave this until the Monday afternoon – let the Sergeant know in advance if you have not been able to arrange a swap. If you are going to be away for particular future meetings let Peter Ennis know.



Rotary Club of Newlands Office Bearers

Colin Burke	President	colinburke@mweb.co.za
Lucian Pitt	Secretary	secretary@newlands.org.za
Peter Ennis	Treasurer	treasurer@newlands.org.za
Chris Beech	President Elect	chris@aaam.co.za
Brian Pickup	Community Service	brianp@automac.co.za
Melinda Stapleton	Club Service	mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za
Jenny Ibbotson	International & Vocational Service	jennyi@mweb.co.za
Chris Beech	Membership	chris@aaam.co.za
Wybe Meinesz	Past President	wybe@insectcontrol.co.za
Regine le Roux	Public Relations	rotary@reputationmatters.co.za
Johan Beukman	Youth Service	jbeukman@netactive.co.za

Books for the World

For all educational school books and novels for age from early education to High school

CONTACT: FRANCOISE NDAYIZIGIYE 0737317056

St Anthony's Catholic Church, Ndabeni Street, Langa

