



HOWZAT!



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



President: Colin Burke
Secretary: Lucian Pitt



Be a gift to the world

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

13 July 2015

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 10.00 on Monday mornings please.

Comment

Via Melinda Stapleton

The Pioneering Continent

ARE small cargo drones the answer to some of Africa’s most pressing problems? A group of European engineers supported by IBM thinks so. Christened “flying donkeys” and now in development, the drones will carry 10kg of cargo each over distances of up to 120km to supply medicine to remote communities or food to refugees. They are designed to be cheap and rugged enough to deploy across the continent, and could perhaps serve as a proving ground for retailers like Amazon that are unable to experiment as freely in the rich world because of strict regulations. Test flights are planned in Africa for later this year. The continent is regarded as an ideal arena because its airspace is not congested, and because poor roads mean that demand for cheap air cargo is immense.



Experiments such as this underscore a remarkable change taking place in Africa. A continent that has long accepted technological hand-me-downs from the West is increasingly innovating for itself. To be sure, much of this is made possible by technological advances elsewhere. Mobile phones are common today in even the most remote African villages. Ericsson, a technology company, estimates that the number of mobiles will rise to 930m by 2019, almost one per African. The spread of smartphones, some of which now cost as little as \$25, is likely to push internet penetration to 50% within a decade.

This is now allowing Africans to go beyond merely copying technology used elsewhere or adapting it to fit African circumstances. In some cases, firms are generating innovations that can also be used in rich countries. Mobile money is the best example. A technology that long struggled to gain a foothold in the West (though mobile payments now seem to be taking off after the introduction of Apple Pay) has transformed economies in places such as Kenya, where millions of unbanked people have been brought into the financial system. This in turn has spurred yet another wave of innovation.

Firms are using mobile money to sell life-insurance policies, some to people with infections such as HIV. Phones not only reduce the cost of collecting small premiums but also allow insurers to remind customers to take their medicine. Another innovator is Olam, a Singapore-listed farm-commodity firm. It has signed up 30,000 farmers in Tanzania as suppliers of coffee, cotton and cocoa through a mobile-phone system, boosting profitability for all.

New technologies could also make a great difference in education. Although firms around the world are developing smartphone and iPad apps to teach children to read, write and do sums, these innovations promise to have a far greater impact in Africa, where education systems are weak and children often have to walk long distances or pay prohibitive fees to attend school.

Apps and e-learning schools are no match for the best state or private ones, but only a tiny elite has access to those. Compared with the run-of-the-mill schools that most Africans attend, they look impressive. The main advantage of using technology to teach is that it reduces the impact of two common failings in many ordinary schools in Africa: teacher absenteeism and minimal adherence to the curriculum. Among the firms embracing such innovation is Bridge International Academies, partly funded by Pearson, co-owner of The Economist. It has more than 100,000 nursery and primary pupils in Kenya, paying about \$5 a month to attend low-cost schools that use technology to follow standardised curriculums.

Technology companies are also having an impact on African societies by transforming the media. The 300,000 residents of the Kenyan city of Nakuru have never had their own newspaper, relying instead on word of mouth for local news. That changed last year when a news website, HiviSasa (meaning "Right Now"), started publishing 30 reports a day on fires, murders, school graduations, hospital improvements and much else that few people outside Nakuru would care about. On March 13th its headline read, "Teacher rescued from 45-foot toilet".

Innovation in Africa is helped by a peculiar confluence of economic and political circumstances. Regulation is generally light thanks to weak governance; engineers can try things out that are either prohibited or prohibitively bureaucratic elsewhere. It is also buoyed by the paucity of traditional infrastructure, whether roads or landlines, meaning that new technologies or business models face few established competitors.

This business environment has attracted a growing number of Western companies to Africa. Microsoft is funding a small firm that is developing wide-area Wi-Fi systems able to cover entire regions at less than a hundredth of the cost of existing mobile telephony. It uses unallocated frequencies, including ones previously reserved for television that are being freed up as broadcasters move to digital transmissions that use less bandwidth. The intention is to bring the same model to rural communities in the West.

Technology is opening up African markets that have long been closed or did not previously exist, says Jim Forster, one of the early engineers at Cisco, a maker of network gear, and now an angel investor. Facebook has joined up with phone operators to make internet connectivity available free through an initiative known as internet.org, hoping to sign up Africans to its site before indigenous social media get to them. Launched in Africa last year, it has since been expanded to poor countries on other continents. Of all Western technology firms, IBM is perhaps the keenest on Africa. Virginia Rometty, the head, visits regularly and talks of “great, great innovation” coming out of the continent.

Africa’s innovation revolution is still in its infancy. But it is likely to gain pace, not least because new models and forms of financing start-ups are also being developed. Take EmergingCrowd, a London-based crowdfunding firm that was launched this week. It aims to match investors with companies in emerging markets, predominantly in Africa. One of the first firms to raise money on it is Bozza, a market for African music and film producers who would otherwise struggle sell their work. “The problems Africa faces are not necessarily American or European problems,” says Emma Kaye, its founder. “The solutions are likely to come out of Africa.”

The Economist, 25 April 2015

Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 6 July 2015

Scribe: Jenny Ibbotson

Sergeant Shân opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

- President Colin, as president for the first time welcomed our guest speaker, Hein Gerstner.
- The 4-Way Test was done by Billy Meyer And the Grace & Toast by Shan Biesman-Simons.
- The Wine Swindle was done for the first time by Paul Spiller. Paul suggested that the Club consider buying the wine with contributions instead of using only donated wine. The wine raffle was won by Geraldine Nicol and the partner wine was won by Jane Pickup.
- The holder of the Stirrers Spoon was not present to make a new presentation.

Guest Speaker

Hein Gerstner from Eco Verde Hotel was introduced by Mike Young.

He gave a fascinating presentation about the way the hotel plan had evolved from a very unlikely site near the airport to one of the greenest hotels in the world. He explained how the hotel uses only renewable energy and also generates its own energy from various sources including the exercise bikes in the gym. He went into great detail about the ways in which the building was constructed. For example the carbon footprint of all the materials used had to be measured. Some features included:

- the grey water re-cycling produces perfectly pure, clean water,
- there are roof gardens, living walls, and hydroponic gardens for herbs and food production,
- double glazing is used throughout,
- a battery the size of a large suitcase (aapprox) can keep the hotel going for 4 hours.

The cost of building this hotel exceeded conventional methods by R25,5 million. This amount has already been recovered in reduced costs. It has a platinum LEAD accreditation.

Mike Walwyn thanked the speaker.

Spots

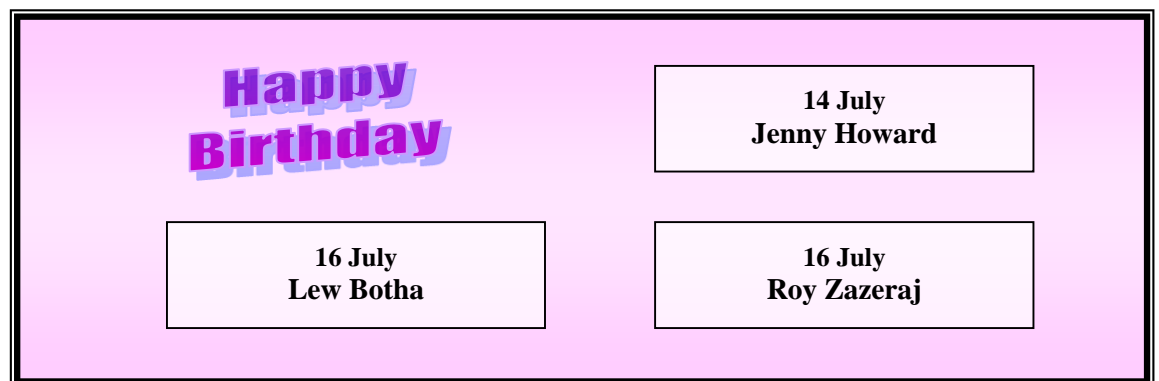
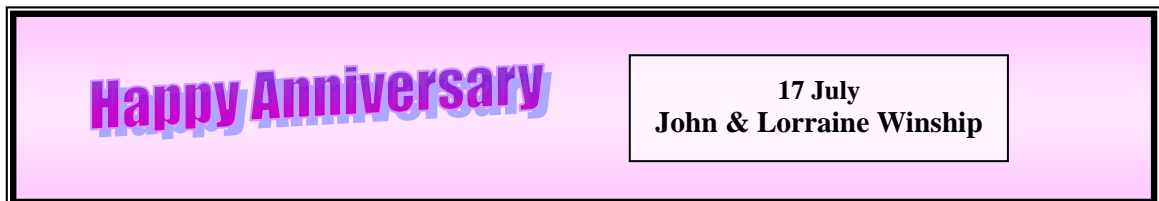
- Richard Burnett – said that since Jan has left the club, he is carrying on the wine auction. However he does need helpers. Please speak to Richard if you are able to get involved. Also he is looking for some really good prizes to auction as well as the wine.
- Christine Calothi – asked anyone who was at SACS in 1956 to contact her.
- Vanessa Rousseau – said she had spoken to Wybe who sent good wishes to all and to President Colin in particular – and said they are winning all their matches.
- Mike Walwyn requested a schedule of sergeants

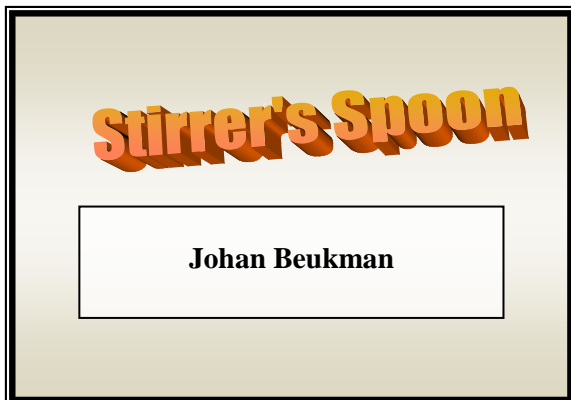
President Colin's slot

- He congratulated DG Geraldine and DG elect Ian on taking up their positions.
- He thanked Hein for his interesting speech.
- He noted that the NSRI opening will take place on 25th July in Yzerfontein. Anyone wishing to attend should contact him.
- There will be a group of renewable energy specialists visiting from Germany next year. President Colin is looking for a team leader to manage their visit.
- There are problems with the Dragon Boat race this year so we will only have two boats. There are severe constraints on using gas, wood, charcoal, etc.
- No birthdays or anniversaries.

Sergeant Shân

- Asked for happy rands,
- thanked all those on duty,
- announced the team for next week
- and closed the meeting.





[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

FUTURE FIXTURES

Year Planner

Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

July 2015

Mon 13 Ordinary
Mon 20 Ordinary
Mon 27 Business

August 2015

Mon 3 Partners
Mon 10 Ordinary
Mon 17 Ordinary
Mon 24 Business
Mon 31 Ordinary

This

This is not very interesting
But if
You have read this far already
You will
Probably
Read as far as this:
And still
Not really accomplishing
Anything at all

You might
Even read on
Which brings you to
The line you are reading now
And after all that you are still
Probably dumb enough to keep
Right on making
A dope of yourself
By reading
As far down
The page as this.

— Anonymous, Princeton Tiger, 1949

moyo®

Celebrate Africa

Moyo Winter Ball BENEFIT

A special celebration to **benefit Starting Chance.**

Change a child's life on Mandela day
by supporting Mandela's tradition
of giving **to those in need.**



Date

18 July 2015

Time

6:30pm

Dress code

Evening wear

Venue

moyo at Kirstenbosch

Tickets available on

www.webtickets.co.za

Or email Kirstenbosch@moyo.com

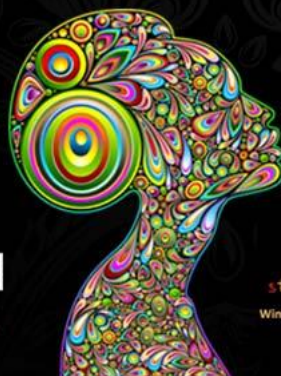
R670.00 per couple



Welcome drinks • Live music • Prizes
A variety of different African dishes



homechoice
development
Trust



starting chance
Winning the Future for the Children
Of Cape Town

Starting Chance is part of a Non Profit Trust and we are committed to giving children from the Early Childhood Sector a flying start on their educational journey. We help to do this by providing training and development to their teachers and upgrading their learning environments from shack schools to best practice Centres, eligible for registration with the Department of Social Development. This means they can claim government subsidies and become self-sustainable. Please take a few minutes to watch the video and please consider joining us for this awesome celebration to make a difference in the lives of our Cape Town children.

Together, we can "Win the Future for the Children of Cape Town"!

We look forward to seeing you on 18th July 2015.

A block booking of 10 pax pay R3000 so there is a small saving. You can contact Moyo directly to organise for people to sit together.

[video](#)

UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	13 July	20 July	27 July	3 August
MEETING	Ordinary	Ordinary	Business	Partners
SERGEANT	Graham Lowden	Jenny Ibbotson	Jenna Monk	Wybe Meinesz
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Willie Wijenberg	Peter Henshilwood	Graham Finlayson	Mike Young
GRACE & TOAST	Nora See	Richard Burnett	Andy Ismay	Daphne Lyell
ATTENDANCE	Lucian Pitt	Brian Pickup	Christine Calothi	Janey Ball
FELLOWSHIP	Pieter van Aswegen	Peter Ennis	Ian Pursch	Corinne Hudson
MINUTES	Peter Ennis	Glynis Menné	Chris Beech	Bill Meyer
COMMENT	Terry Lancaster	Regine le Roux	Bill Holland	Mike Walwyn
THANK SPEAKER	Jana Forrester	Paul Spiller		Shân Biesman- Simons
INTRO SPEAKER	Jenny Ibbotson	Wybe Meinesz		Pieter van Aswegen

Invited GUEST SPEAKERS

- 13 Jul **Maggi Golding & students** – *Makaton / Autism*
- 20 Jul **Chris Beech** – *Developing a Super Regional Shopping Centre*
- 8 Aug **Suzanne Ackerman** – *Promoting young entrepreneurs*

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
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Peter Ennis	Treasurer	treasurer@newlands.org.za
Chris Beech	President Elect	chris@aaam.co.za
Brian Pickup	Community Service	brianp@automac.co.za
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Menno de Wet	Membership	menno.tricorp@gmail.com
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Regine le Roux	Public Relations	rotary@reputationmatters.co.za
Johan Beukman	Youth Service	jbeukman@netactive.co.za
