



# HOWZAT!



## ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



**President: Colin Burke**  
**Secretary: Lucian Pitt**



Be a gift to the world

Editor: Peter Ennis

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18 January 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](mailto:rousseau@iafrica.com) and copy to Melinda Stapleton at [mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za](mailto:mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za) before 10h30 on Monday mornings please.

### Comment

*The Editor*

### Threat to food security remains despite recent rains

*Article by Colleen Goko from BDLive on 15 January 2016*

RAIN showers across the country in recent weeks have come as a blessed relief from the debilitating heat wave, but the downpours will be bittersweet for farmers in drought-stricken provinces. The rain has come too late to save their maize crops.

Planting season for maize was supposed to begin in September, which last year coincided with the onset of the drought. Some farmers delayed planting in the hope that the weather would improve.

About 1.4-million hectares were used to plant white maize, which is grown mostly in the west of the country (the western Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and North West) and 1.2-million hectares used to plant yellow maize, grown in the east (Gauteng, Mpumalanga and the central and eastern Free State).

But most of the planting withered as the rain stayed away until late December. The white maize belt was hardest-hit.

Independent agricultural economist Fanie Brink says the rain is welcome, but that it has come very late in the season. "If there was maize planted in December, it is now only three weeks old and still very small. Anything could happen to it before harvest time."

GrainSA economist Petru Fourie says the direct losses in just the maize sector in terms of unplanted acreage amounts to more than R3bn.

"The yield potential of what was planted weakened as the drought continued. The bit of rain should allow for some improvement in crop conditions. However, losses have already occurred."

The drier weather conditions have been pinned on an exceptionally strong El Niño weather pattern.

Climate experts at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research warned early last year that the strongest El Niño in more than half-a-century would hit SA the hardest between September last year and April this year.

The government was aware of the prediction. In November, it set up a response team called Team SA. The team implemented a number of measures including the purchasing of 45 water tankers of 18,000 litres each for use in the distribution of water in drought-affected areas, borehole drilling and rehabilitation, and water conservation and demand management measures.

Smallholder farmers were given feed and grazing land for their livestock, while a commitment was made to support revolving credit facilities with the Land Bank and other financial institutions to mitigate crop failure.

The total amount set aside for drought relief efforts country-wide was R524m.

"There isn't much the government could have done before the drought set in, but they have been slow in their response," says Mr Brink. "There has been insufficient support for commercial farmers. (The) government spent R3bn in the drought of 1992 and this time, they have spent less than half of that. This not only has consequences for now, but knock-on effects for next season's maize crops and prices."

AgriSA executive director Omri van Zyl estimates that R20bn will be needed to alleviate the effect of the drought in SA.

Commercial maize producers surveyed by the Crop Estimates Committee late last year had indicated they would plant 3.8% fewer hectares this year.

The South African Weather Service forecasts more rain in the next two weeks. But forecaster Ezekiel Sebogo says there could be more heat waves towards the end of the month and beyond.

Grains for Africa MD Joel Amoils says one only has to consider the futures market to gain the industry's view on the prospects for maize.

The white maize spot price peaked at R4,960/tonne on January 5, before retreating to R4,600/tonne as the first rains in weeks soaked the land.

But by January 13, the spot price was on the rise again, closing at R4,830/tonne on the day.

"We are a weather market. The prices are seriously high. This could be an indication that there isn't much hope for the yield or for rain," Mr Amoils says.

Barring a miracle, SA will most likely have to import maize.

The Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy at the University of Pretoria expects a total maize crop of just 4.7-million tonnes, far less than half the industry average of about 11.5-million tonnes a year for 2011-15. The expected harvest is less than half of SA's average consumption of 9.6-million tonnes a year over the period.

Ms Fourie says estimates are now that about 5-million tonnes of maize will have to be imported.

"The price of imported maize will not only be determined by the exchange rate, but also rests on the availability of maize and the country from which we have to import. Maize imports might cost SA between R17bn and R20bn."

White maize is a staple food and a preference in lower-income households in SA. Yellow maize is used mainly for animal feed and is a key input in the production of red meat and poultry.

The ripple effects of a smaller harvest of yellow maize include higher prices for chicken and eggs. The South African Poultry Association says higher input costs will result in producers raising prices to remain profitable.

Ms Fourie says it will be a challenge to source white maize outside Africa, although other African white maize producers are also facing drought.

Likely sources will be Mexico and the US. But there is doubt over whether enough white maize will be sourced from these countries. To meet demand, white and yellow maize meal may be mixed, as was done during the drought in 1992. However, this resulted in a drop in consumption because of consumer resistance.

Mr Brink says the government should approach the United Nations' World Food Programme as soon as possible as the current and future food supply in the entire Southern African region is under threat.

"This problem should be addressed urgently to support the future sustainability of food production in the country on which the entire food chain depends."

Official estimates for crops are due for release on January 27.

[www.bdlive.co.za](http://www.bdlive.co.za)

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## Previous Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting on 11 January 2016**

**Scribe: Pippa McLeod**

President Colin welcomed our guests: Lungi, Nyameka, Ramie and Anthony Galloway (LEAP Board)

Four way test - Janey Ball

Grace and toast - John Stephenson

Query about - the Stirrers spoon??

Wine swindle - Jenny - proceeds of wine to Orphans Raffle instead ... R260.00 to Janey Ball- enjoy

### **Speakers:**

Lungi and Nyameka from LEAP school; introduced by Janey Ball.

Lungiswa on leadership skill and give back to community – "Rotary and Leap made me."

First president of Leap School Interact; Brazil exchange student – opportunity. Make a difference and to grow personally. Became a Brazilian - and a Rotarian. Community work was important. Combined the Four Way test - and Leap school code of conduct. Nora See was Lungi's mentor. Another mentor Flávio in Brazil. Completed an enjoyable exchange. Returned home - wanted to give back. Make a difference. Academy. Back to Leap. You have to give back - i.e. look back. PA to John Gilmore. Fund raising. Passion is with people. Funding events coordination. To be on the ground - helping - meeting people. Now married. And great picture of Mr and Mrs Nzube.

Newlands and Leap made me!

Very emotional and warm speech. And VERY grateful... 😊

And then info from Nyameka on Leap Schools:

Statistical info regarding Reading and Maths schools. Holistic education model – 3 arms. Academic focus. Community intervention - breed change agents. Emotional intervention - need emotional resilience and confidence. Alumni relations - where are past students? Tracking them is important ... No dropouts! YAY.

Leap has grown to six schools. Encourage past students that have gone through tertiary education in the Education field to come back ... Proven good results.

Great presentation! Love the social movement ... New revolution, new story for education in South Africa! Yebo!! Menno also mentioned our member "Eric" 😊

Chris Beech thanked speakers – "Shining example of giving back." Small gift handed over.

Dinner served

Question time - Jenny Howard - query re Mitchell's science school? Can NRC help with a Science laboratory?? Reminder of sister/ brother schools. Leap schools work both ways. Feedback both ways. To younger kids and then gaining knowledge upwards with the use of resources of more "wealthy and resourced schools". Mentorship is key. The future is bright with these two young ladies.

### **Spots**

Ramie - our Ambassadorial scholar from Colorado Urban and economic development: Already been involved in Mozambique extensively. Cape Town is blowing my mind!! Great to place to stay. Look forward to getting to know you all.

Pippa - Caroline De Gruchy - passed away. RIP. Carly Kerwin STEP - has had an amazing 6-week exchange and returns tomorrow.

Mike's guest Anthony Galloway gave us a brief overview about garnering funds - in \$ - and the education system. He will join us 14th March, where he will be addressing us regarding fundraising, extraordinary schools etc. His example was Leap: Double time Maths, science and English. It has worked.

### **President's slot:**

Thank you and Menno you got a silver!! Wow - Menno - recognition for new members ...

Jenny Ibbotson will be back next week.

Note from Mike Saxby - race meeting event on 13th February - come on members?? R375 per couple...

Hout Bay fires - need help. Anything other than clothing, please. Please advise President Colin.

RIP - David Bowie.

Spot from Vanessa - Kirsten Nel our LT from Finland - returns on Friday. Johan will be there to meet and greet her. Vanessa her counsellor will see her at another welcome home function.

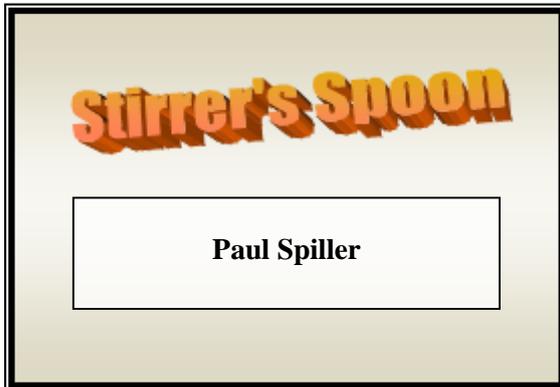
Thank you to all.

### **Sergeant Menno:**

Happy Rands - let's hear it: many happy Rands!! Too many for the scribe to mention... Hopeful that it fills the coffers... oh dear sorry - Oh my goodness - this is getting out of hand...

The sergeant closed the meeting at 21:06pm

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[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

#### FUTURE FIXTURES

##### Year Planner

Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

##### January 2016

Mon 18 Ordinary  
Mon 25 Business

##### 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

**Happy  
Birthday**

18 January  
Shân Biesman-Simons

24 January  
Liz Ismay

■ **Seekers of Silence** — Contemplative Saturday morning, “Rediscovering the Value and Joy of Fasting,” 8:30 a.m.-noon, Feb. 14, John XXIII University Parish, 1710 Melrose Place. Bring lunch

## Burglar

An Oak Hill community couple discovered a thief in their home Saturday after a man told a joke and heard a laugh upstairs.

## UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	18 January	25 January	1 February	8 February
MEETING	Ordinary	Business	DG Visit	Ordinary
SERGEANT	Jenny Howard	Jana Forrester	TBA	TBA
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Johan Beukman	Andy Ismay		
GRACE & TOAST	Michael Walwyn	Tony van der Lith		
ATTENDANCE	Bill Holland	Graham Lowden		
FELLOWSHIP	Paul Spiller	Melinda Stapleton		
MINUTES	Regine le Roux	Mike Young		
COMMENT	Pieter van Aswegen	Wybe Meinesz		
THANK SPEAKER	Daphne Lyell			
INTRO SPEAKER	Shân Biesman- Simons			

**Invited  
GUEST SPEAKERS**

18 Jan **Shona MacDonald** – *Uhambo  
Foundation*

8 Feb **Lance Brown** – *The Driver of  
Change*

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.

**IT'S A TRAP!**



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## **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
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Chris Beech	Membership	chris@aaam.co.za
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Regine le Roux	Public Relations	rotary@reputationmatters.co.za
Johan Beukman	Youth Service	jbeukman@netactive.co.za

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## **Books for the World**

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

**CONTACT: FRANCOISE NDAYIZIGIYE 0737317056**

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