



# HOWZAT!



## ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



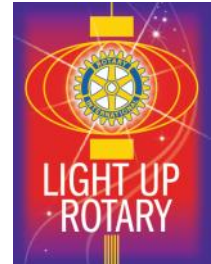
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Newlands Rotary website: [www.newlands.org.za](http://www.newlands.org.za)

Rotary District 9350 website: [www.rotary9350.co.za](http://www.rotary9350.co.za)



2 March 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 Melinda Stapleton at [mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za](mailto:mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za) and copy to Bill Holland at [bholland@wbs.co.za](mailto:bholland@wbs.co.za) before 10.00 on Monday mornings please.

### Comment

*Via Graham Finlayson*

### Local producers of solar-powered school bags featured on CNN

A Rustenburg-based company that converts upcycled plastic bags into solar panel school bags that charge while children walk to school and act as a light source to enable them to study at night has been featured on international news organisation CNN’s ‘African Start-Up’ programme.

Rethaka cofounders Thato Kgathanye and Rea Ngwane, who won third place in the 2013 South African Breweries Foundation Social Innovation Awards, receiving \$30 000 to kick-start their business earlier this year, outlined that the repurposed school bag had been designed to meet dual education and energy-related needs.



“It’s actually made from 20 plastic bags that are upcycled into a textile and we have also integrated a solar panel because the kids that we are trying to serve go home and have [no] electricity to study.

“So while these kids are walking to school, we give them something that can help them later on. All the kids need to do when they get back home is slip the solar panel off the bag and put it onto a jar that is supplied, connect the switch to the solar panel and then they have a light source to use at night,” Ngwane explained.

Rethaka sourced the plastic bags used in the product from schools, households and landfills, after which they went through a washing and sorting process to remove dirt.

The bags then underwent a brand removal process and were hung to dry before being taken to a station where they were cut, ironed and sown into sturdy school bags.

“Business is amazing, we've managed to do our prototyping phase, piloted our first school and [made] 128 bags. We've had great clients that have come on board to support us by placing orders,” added Kgathanye.

Following its successful start, Rethaka now employed eight people.

“I see our bags definitely going beyond the borders of South Africa and reaching other African countries and other developing continents such as Asia, and making that much of an impact,” Ngwane concluded.

By: Natalie Greve  
www.engineeringnews.co.za

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## Previous Meeting

**Minutes of Business Meeting on 23 February 2015      Scribe: Lucian Pitt**

**Sergeant Pippa** opened the meeting.

**Pres. Wybe** welcomed the following guests

- **Aloy Gowne** guests of Menno de W
- **Daphne Lyell** guest of Rochelle M
- **Willie Wijnberg** guest of Terry L
- **Mia van Aardt, Nicola Hobson and Jo Hobson** guests of Pippa M

**Mike Y** reminded the club of the Object of Rotary

**Jenna M** proposed a toast to members past and present as well as RI. In particular, past members **John Simpson, Alan Thompson, Trevor Tyers, Kim Broadbent, Eugene Malenaric, Nigel Carter** and **Dave Booth** where remembered.

There was an attempt to pass the “Wooden Spoon” to **Chris Beech**...but he must have ‘had wind’ of this evil intent and opted to stay away (just to be of the safe side).

The week’s wine raffle (with a difference) was won two other people **and the scribe**...the scribe was so excited, he forgot to make a note of who the other people were...hope they enjoyed their wine as much as we did at our table.

**Mia** and **Nicola** gave us a taste of their experience as STEP participant in Germany and Italy, respectively. There were stories of wonderful experiences, kind people and interesting places, but what stood out head and shoulders above everything else was the culinary experience...there was a lot of salivating as a result!

This would have been a good time to break for supper, but the rendition of a few SPOTS before supper, tempered our expectation...wise move by the sergeant!

Spots where taken by the following:

- **Mike W** – Presented a gift of a spur to Graham F; this caused more excitement among the members of the fairer sex than it did Graham.
- **Jenna M** advised that she had shirts on sale, these were “of new design”; members were encouraged to acquire these for use at the cycle tour.
- **Diana B** made an announcement and an appeal for support for the Community Carnival held at Maynardville within the week.
- **Pieter v A** appealed for help on the cycle tour to fill open “cycle tour bike shop” spots.
- **Brain P** acknowledged the contribution of Jenna M toward the celebration of the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of RI.
- **Christine C** made an appeal for more items (for animals...more specifically dogs) to compliment the sterling effort by Bishops Early Act to raise items for animals in celebration of the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of RI.

**Janey B** took the club through a crash course on ClubRunner which left most of us enlightened.

**President Wybe** thanked **Jenna and team** for their hard work on organising the 110 celebrations and **Nicola** and **Mia** for their sharing their experiences with us. We were advised that **Pat Steward** has taken leave of absence for the remainder of the Rotary year and **Pippa** was offered well wishes for her birthday on the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Happy Rands filled the treasurer’s coffer and once we were separated from our rands the sergeant closed the meeting. Having been separated from our rands, some of us left poorer, but all of us left richer for the experience.



[www.facebook.com/newlandsrotary](http://www.facebook.com/newlandsrotary)

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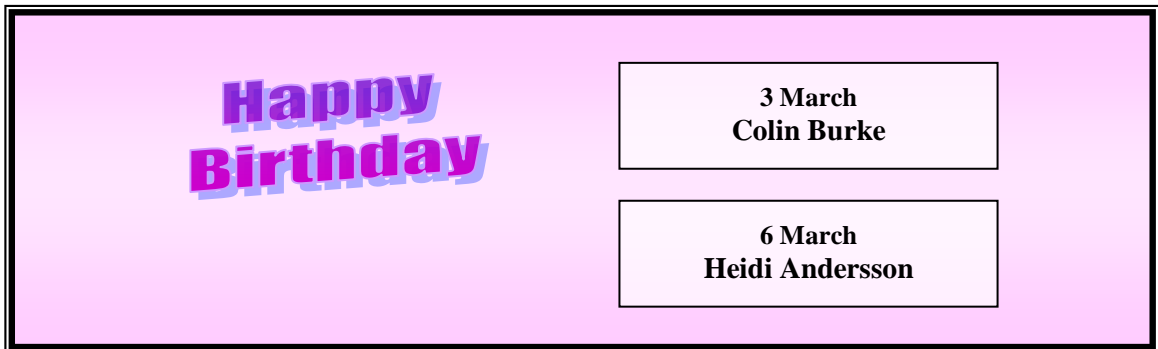
[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

**FUTURE FIXTURES**  
Year Planner  
Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

**March 2015**  
Mon 2 Partners  
**Sun 8 Cape Town Cycle Tour**  
Mon 9 Ordinary  
Mon 16 Ordinary  
Mon 23 Business

**May 2015**  
**Thu 28 Wine Auction - Jhb**

**June 2015**  
**Fri 19 Induction Dinner**



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## Quotes

“The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function.” — F. Scott Fitzgerald

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” — Aristotle

“Education enables you to express assent or dissent in graduated terms.” — William Cory

“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.” — Robert Frost

“An inventor is simply a fellow who doesn't take his education too seriously.” — Charles F. Kettering

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## UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	2 March	9 March	16 March	23 March
MEETING	Partners	Ordinary	War Stories	Business
SERGEANT	Terry Lancaster	Nora See	Pat Stewart	Tony van der Lith
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECTS	Rochelle Malherbe	Bill Holland	Jenny Ibbotson	Shân Biesman-Simons
GRACE & TOAST	Peter Henshilwood	Chris Beech	Pieter van Aswegen	Garnet Carr
ATTENDANCE	Andy Ismay	Regine le Roux	Ian Pursch	Pippa McLeod
FELLOWSHIP	Johan Beukman	Heidi Andersson	Richard Burnett	Tinus de Jongh
MINUTES	Sue Trott	Menno de Wet	Melinda Stapleton	Graham Finlayson
COMMENT	Graham Lowden	John Stephenson	Diana Booth	Brian Pickup
THANK SPEAKER	Colin Burke	Janey Ball		
INTRO SPEAKER	Paul Spiller	Vanessa Rousseau		

**Invited  
GUEST SPEAKERS**

- 2 Mar **Simon Mills** – *Thoughts create our reality*  
 9 Mar *Volunteer Wildfire Services*  
 30 Mar **Arthur Atwell** – *Book Dash*

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.



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## Rotary Club of Newlands Office Bearers

Wybe Meinesz	President`	wybe@insectcontrol.co.za
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