



# 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](mailto:howzat@newlands.org.za)

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)

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7 December 2015

## WEEKLY UPDATE

P O Box 44735  
CLAREMONT  
7735

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**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.

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### Comment

**Ian Porsch**

### Uncle Podger, and the Why of DIY

In Jerome K Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat (To say nothing of the Dog)* there is a three page description of how his Uncle Podger would go about hanging a picture resulting in "...about midnight, the picture would be up – very crooked and insecure, the wall for yards around looking as if it had been smoothed down with a rake..."

‘ “There you are,” he would say, stepping heavily off the chair on to the charwoman's corns, and surveying the mess he had made with evident pride. “Why, some people would have had a man in to do a little thing like that!” ’

I was reminded of this story recently when Paula complained that one of the toilets in our house seemed to have a non-stop (albeit very small) flow of water into the bowl. No problem, I thought, and while I'm about it why not replace the entire old-fashioned cistern with a new one of sensible size and help to save the planet with smaller flushes? This is exactly the sort of simple job that I keep a well-stocked workshop to be able to handle.

Yeah, right.

I won't bore you with the details, but after about five days of hard work, with complex re-routing of plumbing, multiple joints (most of which leaked spectacularly), a re-tiling job (because, of course, I discovered that the big old cistern hid raw plaster) and a complicated shelf build (to hide the worst of the piping) we were the proud new owners of a loo that still had a permanent trickle of water into the bowl until in desperation I weighted part of the contraption inside that is designed to make a seal. It no longer trickles, but the handle now has to be held down until the water has emptied. Oh, and for anything other than light use the new cistern has to be flushed twice. Sorry, planet.

This is fairly typical tale of DIY. So why is it that on Wednesdays (pensioners discount day) I and drifts of my peers can be seen happily pottering about in Builders Warehouse looking for washers and screws and hinges in its pursuit?

There isn't really a practical reason. By the time we have bought all the parts we need for a household job at inflated prices, have destroyed half of them in the process and gone back for more, have discovered that we need a new tool for part of the work and have bought that too, we certainly aren't saving money by doing it ourselves. And when you put a value to the inordinate amount of time taken, and the frustration, bad language and spilt blood involved, the cost becomes even higher.

But, like Uncle Podger, I and the other diehards can at least point to the sheer achievement of *fixing* something. There is a joy in this accomplishment, however wobbly our results may be. This is what I was trained for by my father, as I watched him working on his house and his boat for decades. And this is what I fear the modern generation is missing as it becomes ever more the norm to simply replace things as soon as they stop working perfectly.

We owe it to our sons and daughters to teach them the joy of partial flushes.

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*Editor's note:*

*Not everyone is an Uncle Podger. For an example of what the spirit of DIY can achieve, read this inspiring article [How to Fix Everything](#), and then visit the [iFixit.Org website](#).*

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## Previous Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting on 30 November 2015**

**Scribe: Pieter van Aswegen**

The meeting was opened by Sergeant Peter Henshilwood who invited President Colin to welcome the guests, special guest Pam Moore and Andrew Peile.

President Colin invited Andrew Peile to the podium and inducted him into the club as a full member.

Andrew who has resigned from his English club was warmly welcomed by all the members. He told us about his cycling accident a few weeks ago where he hit a car door, went flying head first to the ground and sustained numerous but fortunately not permanent injuries.

The 4 Way test was recited by all followed by the Grace and toast to RI.

Mike Walwyn won the wine swindle.

Corinne Hudson introduced Paul Spiller as our guest speaker as he stood in for our planned speaker who underwent an operation.

*Paul graduated with a BSc from Wits followed by a medical degree from UCT. Besides being a GP for 20 years Paul is also skilled in alternative medicine such as acupuncture. He practiced in Ashton before taking up a medical officer post with TB in the Cape.*

*There is currently a World Lung Conference taking place in Cape Town in which Paul is involved.*

*There are currently about 9 million TB sufferers worldwide resulting in over 1,5 million deaths (this is greater than Malaria and HIV combined).*

*TB is transmitted by air particles (coughing) and not by contact. Prisons are particularly common places to contract TB due to close contact and over-crowding and you have a 5 x greater chance of contracting TB in a prison and 10x if you have HIV. The 4 major warning signs are a persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexpected weight loss.*

*TB can be cured within 6 months with the use of specific antibiotics. This bacteria has a number of strains.*

*TB is also known as Consumption, Phthisis, Potts Disease and White Plague.*

*People with suppressed immune systems are susceptible particularly when treated with Chemo and HIV medication. Before the modern day drugs which do not have a 100% cure rate, patients were sent to the Karroo or Robin Island to be isolated. Children under 5 are vaccinated against TB but this does not guarantee that you will not contract TB. Two new drugs, namely Bedaquiline and Delamanid have been used this year with greater success.*

*To put TB in perspective, in 2012, Ebola affected 28000 people resulting in 11000 deaths. TB affected 8.6 million resulting in 1.3 million deaths worldwide.*

*Southern Africa has the highest incidence of TB worldwide.*

Nora See thanked Paul.

Spots:

- Ian Pursch announced that President Colin had volunteered our club services on Sunday 28 February 2016 for a braai at the Soetwater Eco-centre for the international Rotary guests attending President Rabie's conference.
- Ian then auctioned a book "Paths to Pub" for club funds. A number of Rotarians recalled war stores from the Stellenbosch Cycle Tour which was a great success.
- Rotarian Chuck from California joined our meeting bringing greetings from his club. They are involved in mega projects (4 million USD) and have been successful with matching grants. He invited Newlands to propose suitable projects.
- Colin Burke will head up the Braai day assisted by Eric, Bill, Chris and Menno.
- Bill Holland encouraged everyone to read the club proposal strategic plan and get involved with comments and feedback.
- President Colin announced the birthdays and anniversaries.

Sergeant Peter closed the meeting with Happy Rands.

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## PHILIPPI CHILDRENS CENTRE— DECEMBER 2015



PCC is thriving. The Centre is now registered for over 300 children. The current complement is 260.

The school headmistress, Sweleni Ntuli, is an "angel" and has the school functioning successfully. Jane Bodin had invited Penbev to visit the school and handed over a picture of the children in recognition of the contribution Penbev had made to the school in 2013. It turned out that they also awarded our Club a similar photo which I accepted on our behalf.

The school is profitable, has surplus cash on the balance sheet, and several plans for expansion. Awesome! JBW



## Stirrer's Spoon

Peter Ennis

[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

### FUTURE FIXTURES

#### Year Planner

Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

#### December 2015

**Mon 7 Partners, Year-end function**

Mon 14 Ordinary

Mon 21 No meeting

Mon 28 No meeting

#### January 2016

Mon 4 No meeting

**Mon 11 Partners, 1st meeting 2016**

Mon 18 Ordinary

Mon 25 Business

## Happy Anniversary

12 December  
John & Blanche Stephenson

12 December  
Richard & Chippy Burnett

13 December  
Paul & Judy Spiller

### Notices

Saturday is the last "yard waste" disposal day at the Marblehead Rd. landfill. Sounds like a busy day!

Members of the Lions Club will be out selling holiday wreaths and kissing balls at Center School this weekend.

Crowning the weekend at the Windham High School will be 2 performances of The Nutcracker, featuring some Windham and local dancers among the professionals. Always a treat!

## UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	7 December	14 December	21 December	28 December
MEETING	Partners	Ordinary	No Meeting	No Meeting
SERGEANT	<p><b>Year-end Function</b></p> <p><b>Sostanza Restaurant</b></p>	Lew Botha	<p><b>Year-end break</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting: 11 January</b></p>	
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT		Richard House		
GRACE & TOAST		Tinus de Jongh		
ATTENDANCE		Wybe Meinesz		
FELLOWSHIP		Willie Wijenberg		
MINUTES		Jana Forrester		
COMMENT		Richard Burnett		
THANK SPEAKER		Brian Pickup		
INTRO SPEAKER		Regine le Roux		

**Invited GUEST SPEAKERS**

14 Dec **Hilary Lane** – *Triumphing in a 'normal' world*

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**

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

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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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