



HOWZAT!



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



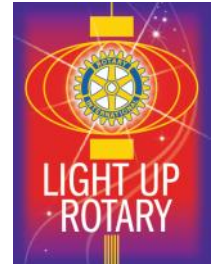
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9 March 2015

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 and copy to Bill Holland at bholland@wbs.co.za before 10.00 on Monday mornings please.

Comment

From John Stephenson

PEOPLE DOING THEIR BIT

Amid the smoke and destruction of the fire that turned the mountains of the South Peninsula to an ashy wasteland, the people of Cape Town distinguished themselves by their generosity for the exhausted firefighters.

With helicopters, fixed-wing spotter planes and scores of firemen still fighting the blaze that broke out on Sunday, people across the city came forward to do their bit.

Speaking from Lakeside fire station on Monday, city fire and rescue spokesman Theo Layne said: "We are really grateful for all the donations the people have made today. There is so much food and refreshments here that we cannot see the firehouse. The people of Cape Town have showed their support for us with such a great example of human spirit."

Layne was speaking beside a mountain of bottled water, and towers of pizza boxes and other warm food.

"We have had to separate all of the donations in different categories and there is so much here that we ran out of space in the garage and had to start packing food in the offices.

“There is so much food here that we feel that we need tell people to stop, but they just keep coming and for that we are really grateful. As things stand it looks as though the fight against the fire will continue for a few days so everything brought in here today will be used, nothing will go to waste.”

But it wasn't just at the fire stations that people showed their mettle. Athos Rushovich of Noordhoek woke early on Monday to the sound of crackling flames, and immediately sprang into action.

A long-time resident of Noordhoek, the 50-year-old had been at the epicentre of the raging fires of 2000, which scorched the peninsula and resulted in residents being evacuated.

“I knew we were in some serious trouble.”

By 6am on Monday, the neighbourhood was “encircled by flames” said a resident who just managed to speed through Chapman's Peak Drive before the road was closed. Most of Noordhoek was awake, residents huddling together on streets fearing the blaze – fanned and fed by strong winds and dry vegetation – would engulf the area.

But Rushovich and more than 100 volunteers, men and women from nearby homes, were already on the job. In the early hours he had set up a base of operations at the local Dutch Reformed Church, the headquarters for the area's last historic fire.

Using a network of walkie-talkies, he kept his eyes on the blaze, feeding vital information to the already stretched firefighters who had arrived.

City Disaster Risk Management spokesman Onele Ndesi said four homes were destroyed despite fire services deploying 44 vehicles in the area. The flames had spread, changing direction with the wind.

As firefighters on Chapman's Peak put it: “This (was) a big one.”

In Noordhoek, Rushovich said the fire had moved rapidly, coming dangerously close to homes. Noordhoek Manor, a retirement home, was in danger.

“We made the call for some people to start evacuating.”

Those who could, began packing their belongings into cars. Rushovich said local guesthouses had opened their doors to displaced residents free of charge.

But the elderly at Noordhoek Manor who had no transport were left stranded.

“That's when volunteers jumped in, bringing their own cars to pick them up,” said Rushovich.

Neighbourhood watch member Brendhan Kannemeyer said at one point there was a queue of 70 vehicles at the gates of the retirement village.

They were taken to churches in the area where volunteers had already set themselves up, ready to feed them and make sure they were comfortable.

Rushovich, who by 2pm had been holed up in his makeshift control centre for more than 12 hours, said he would remember 2015's fire as the time “everyone pulled together”.

“I'm still overwhelmed by the support we received.”

He said there were too many volunteers to count – volunteer firefighters armed with wet blankets and spades to douse hot zones, people ferrying food, the local grocer who opened up at 3.30am and sold food at cost, and donations from Pick n Pay and Shoprite Checkers

LEST WE FORGET WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 2 March 2015

Scribe: Sue Trott

The meeting was opened promptly by Sergeant **Terry**, at 7pm.

Wybe welcomed a number of guests:

Our new Newlands Rotarian and current DG elect, **Geraldine Nicol**; our guest speaker, **Simon Mills**; 4 special guests, **Willie Wijenberg** (Terry's guest), **Daphne Lyle** (guest of Rochelle) & **John & Angie Joubert** (Menno).

In addition, 8 Turkish Rotary friendship exchange guests from 6 clubs in District 2420: **Oya & Suleyman Girit, Ilter & Leyla Turan, Belkis Unver, Nilgun Yucel, Nesrin Yetkin & Gulsin Caltil**.

Before doing the 4-way test, **Rochelle** explained the history of it, followed by the Grace and toast said by **Peter H**.

Richard conducted the wine raffle/swindle, which was won by **Martyn Webb** and **Andy Ismay**.

The Stirrer's Spoon was (finally) handed to **Chris Beech** for the sterling job he and his membership committee has done thus far.

President Wybe was thrilled to induct **Geraldine Nicol** (our District Governor elect), who has a long and distinguished career as a Rotarian and has transferred from Stellenbosch Rotary due to moving her home to Marina da Gama.

Our guest speaker, **Simon Mills**, was introduced by **Paul Spiller**. He himself has recently made an excellent decision by being inducted into Strand Rotary! His extremely interesting talk was entitled 'How our thoughts create our own Reality'. Without going into detail here he spoke about positive thinking, how thoughts have their own energy and penetrate the energy field around them and how our subconscious mind prevails over our conscious mind and affects our decision making. He spoke also about different brainwave frequencies, the different states in which the brain operates and the importance of visualization in order to realise a goal. Questions were followed by **Jenna** thanking Simon for his talk. She encouraged him to use 'positive thinking' to imagine the small gift she gave him was something much bigger!

Before dinner was served, **Corinne** was given a double spot. On behalf of Janey she announced that Janey is trying to organise a speaker on 16th March from the Wild Fire services. (This on a day when fires were raging all over Cape Town's mountains). **Corinne** also said that they were trying to organise for the Turkish guests to get to Cape Point on Thursday morning before they leave as they missed the previous opportunity because of the fires.

After dinner was served, the meeting was reconvened. **Jana** introduced the Turkish visitors and did a good job of welcoming them in a combination of German & Turkish! **Suleiman** spoke on behalf of the team; thanking us for hosting them in our beautiful country (we know that!). He gave us a brief summary of Turkey's history, their population - 77 million people and the 16th largest GDP in the world. Their industry ranges from exporting fruit & nuts, the automotive industry, mining (minerals) and tourism to marbling, calligraphy, carpet making and tile-making. Turkey also boasts 2 of the Seven Wonders of the World and wonderful cuisine (including Turkish Delights) as well as Turkish baths and Sufi. The address was completed with a banner exchange and some sampling of the Turkish delights and gift giving.

Spots:

Graham F: on the cycle tour route which may change because of the fires. Will be determined on Wednesday.

Menno: vehicle collection for the Cape Town cycle tour: Saturday 12 – 3 pm.

Brian: Suggests that attendees for the Upington Conference may want to stay on Thursday, April, 30th as the conference starts at 8:30 on Friday morning. There is still accommodation available but people must act quickly to secure it. Thursday night's registration will include dinner.

President's slot: Thanked all for attending, members, partners and our special and Turkish guests as well as our speaker, Simon. He wished the travellers a safe journey home and announced that the Cycle Tour war stories evening would be Monday 9th March. He thanked the hosts of the Turkish guests, **Graham** and his team, and announced 2 birthdays, President Elect, **Colin** (3rd) and **Heidi** (6th).

Another spot by **Jana** who thanked **Corinne** for all the work she put into making a success of the Turkish visit.

The sergeant announced the duties for next week, there were LOTS of Happy Rands and the meeting was closed very efficiently by **Terry** at 9:20.



www.facebook.com/newlandsrotary

Surrer's Spoon

Chris Beech

[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

FUTURE FIXTURES

Year Planner

Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

March 2015

Mon 9 War Stories
Mon 16 Ordinary
Mon 23 Business
Mon 30 Ordinary

May 2015

Thu 28 Wine Auction - Jhb

June 2015

Fri 19 Induction Dinner

Happy Birthday

9 March
Phil Calothi

10 March
Garnet Carr

UMPIRES AND SCORERS

DATE	9 March	16 March	23 March	30 March
MEETING	War Stories	Ordinary	Business	Ordinary
SERGEANT	Nora See	Pat Stewart	Tony van der Lith	Andy Ismay
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Bill Holland	Jenny Ibbotson	Shân Biesman-Simons	Lucian Pitt
GRACE & TOAST	Chris Beech	Pieter van Aswegen	Garnet Carr	Christine Calothi
ATTENDANCE	Regine le Roux	Ian Pursch	Pippa McLeod	Paul Spiller
FELLOWSHIP	Heidi Andersson	Richard Burnett	Tinus de Jongh	Terry Lancaster
MINUTES	Menno de Wet	Melinda Stapleton	Graham Finlayson	Jenna Monk
COMMENT	John Stephenson	Diana Booth	Brian Pickup	Rochelle Malherbe
THANK SPEAKER		Vanessa Rousseau		Corinne Hudson
INTRO SPEAKER		Janey Ball		Glynis Menné

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.

Invited GUEST SPEAKERS

- 16 Mar *Volunteer Wildfire Services*
- 30 Mar **Arthur Atwell** –
Book Dash



Rotary Club of Newlands Office Bearers

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