

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

Oct 25: Chili & Chimi Yalamanchili

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Oct 19: Larissa Franklyn
Bronze Medalist Softball,
2020 Tokyo Olympics

Oct 26: Luke Vorstermans
"Roll Over Hippo" Project

Nov 02: Shashanka Vangari
Who's Who

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Patrick Dobbyn** presided.

Guests (apart from the program presenters) included:

Al Stjerngaard - Rotary Area D Assistant Governor

Michael Seymour - a "producer, marketing professional, digital media manager, and business development expert with MMG Media Productions Inc."

Program:

Restoring Water, Sanitation and Dignity to the Grahamstown/Makhanda Schools Makhanda, South Africa – Rotary Global Grant: 222 9954



Via zoom, we were told about the above-noted Rotary project in South Africa.

Presenters were the following:



Gavin Keeton was born and educated in Grahamstown, South Africa. He obtained a PhD in Economics from Rhodes University in 1984. Gavin worked as an economist at the Development Bank of Southern Africa and then at Standard Bank Investment Corporation before joining the economics office of Anglo American in 1990. As Chief Economist from 2001 until March 2008, Gavin was responsible for advising the Anglo American group on developments in the global economy and in financial markets and their implications for the mining industry. In 2009, Gavin returned to Grahamstown as an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Economic History at Rhodes University. Gavin joined the Rotary Club of Grahamstown in 2009. He served a number of terms as Club Secretary and currently is the President. Most recently, he helped co-ordinate the recent upgrade of toilets and water supply at the Ntsika Secondary School, amassing support for the project from Rotary Clubs and Districts in the USA, UK, Canada and Brazil as well as the Rotary Foundation.



Stuart M. (Stu) Palmer has been a member of the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for over 35 years, serving as a board member for ten years and president from 1993-1994. He was recipient of the club's Rotarian of the Year Award in 1989, District 5440 Rotarian of the Year in 1999 and again his club's Rotarian of the Year in 2020.

Stu has been District 5440 chairman of World Community Service and International Service and was an Assistant Governor as well as District 5440 Conference Chairman in 2003.

Stuart co-chaired the first District 5440 Rotary Foundation Million Dollar Dinner fundraiser in 2013, raising over \$2 Million for The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. In March 2021, Stuart was recognized with Rotary International's highest honour, the "Service Above Self Award," presented to him personally by R.I. President Holger Knaack. Stuart has been involved in international service projects in Brazil, Russia, Rwanda and now South Africa.

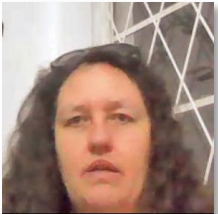


Ken Small joined the Rotary Club of Arlington, Virginia in 1985. He served as President in 2003-2004. He also served Arlington Rotary as Vice President, Secretary, and at various times the chairman of the Club Service, Vocational, and International committees. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Ken has attended Rotary International Conventions in France, Canada, Australia and the USA (with his Dad, PDG Bob Small). Ken is a registered Industrial Engineer in three jurisdictions. He completed a career in the US Air Force in 1987. During his military career he served tours in Vietnam, England, Germany, and Saudi Arabia. Outside of his national service, Ken is an engineering consultant and was a strategic marketing manager for both Architect/Engineer companies and aerospace companies. Ken and Joan moved to Jackson Wyoming in 2009. Ken joined Jackson Hole Rotary Club in the fall of 2009.



Julia Heemstra is a citizen of both the United States and South Africa, and has worked in both countries in social service, education, public health and humanitarian capacities. In 2017, Julia started returning to South Africa regularly to continue the work that she had begun in the 1990s with underserved populations.

Working with the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole, she started by implementing water filters in areas that did not have access to clean water and then connected the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole with the Rotary Club of Grahamstown to work together on the projects that will be presented today. Julia is also a graduate student – she's currently completing a master's degree in humanitarian action and peace building with the United Nations and Oxford Brookes University in the United Kingdom.



Nicci Hayes was formerly the principal of Nombulelo Secondary School. She is currently the Acting Director of the Centre for Social Development at Rhodes University, and the coordinator of the Makana Circle of Unity Education Cluster. In her 27 years of teaching English, Drama

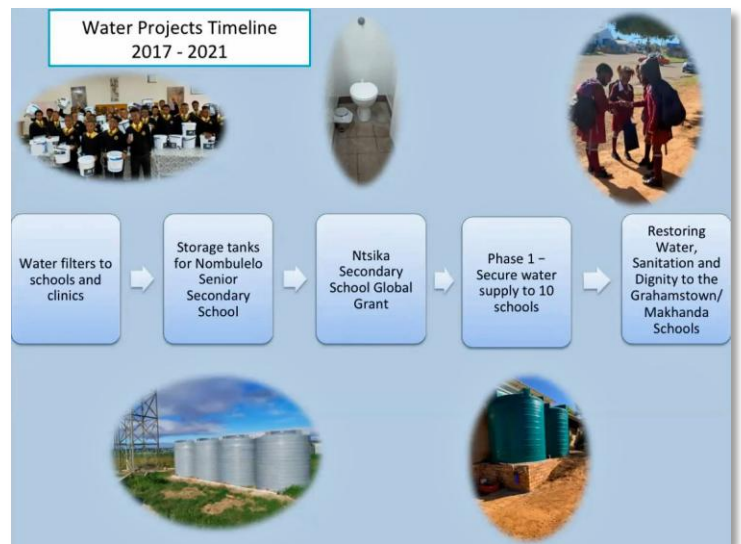
and Mathematics in Grahamstown she has worked at public and private schools, at post-matric schools and has lectured pre-service teachers and in-service teachers. She was lucky enough to experience a Rotary Group Study Exchange to India in 2005. She is passionate about wildlife, and will do almost anything for a good slice of baked cheesecake!



Tony Paulus was Educated at Stanford University (B. A.) and Boston University (M.Ed.). He was a life-long educator, heading four schools over a 29-year period, three in the United States and one in Istanbul, Turkey. He has been a member of three Rotary Clubs over a 20+ year period. Most recently, as President, Rotary Club Jackson Hole (RCJH) – 2018-2019, he was the recipient of the Outstanding President, Large Club, District 5440. Tony, who is now retired, lives with his wife, Marnie, north of Teton Village, WY, as in-holders in Grand Teton National Park. Tony is an avid outdoorsman as a bicyclist, hiker, kayaker and former climber (7 ascents of Grand Teton [13,770'] and one ascent of Mt. Rainier [14,400'])

Program:

This project will build upon the successful partnership between the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and the Rotary Club of Grahamstown, South Africa, to provide water and sanitation systems to schools in the Makhanda (Grahamstown) Township. Between 2018 and 2020, this collaboration successfully intervened with two Secondary Schools in the region, impacting a combined student population of over 1700 students. First, in May 2019, the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole supported the purchase of rainwater storage tanks to allow Nombulelo Secondary School to remain open when the municipal water source was turned off. In addition, Nombulelo's guttering system was upgraded to allow for more efficient rainwater capture. A year later, the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole assisted the Rotary Club of Grahamstown in funding a \$110,000 project to completely renovate the water and sanitation systems at Ntsika Secondary School - including the bathrooms, cafeteria and rainwater harvesting system. This enabled Ntsika to remain open and even increase their graduation rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The most recently completed project "Secure School Water Supply" built upon these successes by providing water tanks and pumps to keep ten schools open - impacting 6,379 students. This project addressed all plumbing leaks at these schools and provided water for flushing toilets. In addition, filtered drinking water was provided for students and for the National School Nutrition Program.

This project laid the groundwork for an even larger project to address additional water and sanitation needs at seven of these schools. A needs assessment, consistent with Rotary International's standards, was conducted from May - July 2021; this determined the scope of work outlined in the current global grant. The work includes renovating ablution blocks and kitchens at the schools, and repairing roofs and gutters to increase potential for rainwater harvesting.

Why is this essential? For many black South African students, school is the only place where they have access to clean water and, through the National School Nutrition Program, a nutritious daily meal. Second, due to the legacy of apartheid, the previous generations of black South Africans were often denied a full education. Current students in the educational system are the future leaders of the country. This is reflected in the South African unemployment statistics; while unemployment among uneducated South Africans hovers around 37%, those statistics shift dramatically – to only 6% - for those who graduate from high school and obtain an undergraduate degree. Our effort will provide dignity and hope, allowing South African students, many of whom originate from extreme poverty, to realize their dream of rising above their current situation and advancing the future of the country.

It is expected that the cost of completing this project will be \$400,000 US. Of this amount, \$230,000 has been raised. They are looking for donations, and stated that any amount (even \$500) would be of assistance.

When asked whether they were thinking of a “hands-on” project, we were advised that the Rotary club of Casper, Wyoming, is considering sending a group to South Africa in the future when COVID permits.

Community project of Guest Michael Seymour

Michael Seymour is putting together a project to clean up the community by picking up facemasks that have been left around to clutter up our streets, trails, and waterways. Michael was invited by our president Patrick to tell us of this hands-on project. Michael also donated \$50 to support the South African project, and further advised that he would donate his media capabilities at no charge to a Rotary project. He may be reached at 604-376-5974, and mmgmediaworks@gamil.com

Happy and Sad dollars and announcements:

Chili congratulated **Deborah** on celebrating her first Thanksgiving is a Canadian citizen.

Mike Davies advised that we had received a Thank You card from the ACT for our support in the form of the donation made from the Wine Fast proceeds.

Ineke commented that she felt the project in South Africa (as per today's program) was great, and noted that past president Clint had an eye operation but is recovering satisfactorily.

Chili extracted a dollar fine from everyone that did not know that since our club was incorporated four persons have taken on the job of club President for more than one term.

The Bottom Line:

Makhanda, previously known as **Grahamstown**, is a town of about 140,000 people in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Grahamstown is the site of the Rhodes University which was founded in 1904. It is also the site of another older fossil – founded (or rather, found) 2013 -namely, the oldest fossil land animal from the Gondwana supercontinent was discovered near Makhanda and represents a new species of scorpion from 360 million years ago even before the era of the dinosaurs.



Submitted by Laurie Anderson